THE PRINCIPAL

ACTS

OF THE

General Assembly

OF THE

CHURCH

OF

SCOTLAND,

CONVENED AT EDINBURGH, THE 23d DAY OF MAY 1799.

COLLECTED AND EXTRACTED FROM THE RECORDS BY THE CLERK THEREOF.

EDINBURGH:

PRINTED BY JAMES DICKSON, PRINTER TO THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

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THE PRINCIPAL

ACTS

OF THE

General Assembly

OF THE

CHURCH of SCOTLAND,

Begun at EDINBURGH, the 23d day of MAY, and concluded the 3d day of June 1799.

I.

The KING's Commiſſion to DAVID Earl of LEVEN and MELVILL produced, and ordered to be recorded.

Edinburgh, May 23. 1799.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY of this National CHURCH being convened and conſtituted, there was produced to them, by the Right Honourable DAVID EARL of LEVEN and MELVILL the KING's Commiſſion, ſealed with the ſeal appointed by the Treaty of Union to be kept and uſed in *Scotland*, in place of the Great Seal of *Scotland*, making and conſtituting him his Majeſty's

jesty's High Commissioner and Representative in this Assembly; which Commission was publicly read with all due honour and respect, and ordered to be recorded in the books of Assembly;—the tenor whereof follows:

GEORGIUS, *Dei gratiâ, Magnæ Britanniæ, Franciæ, et Hiberniæ Rex, Fidei Defensor: Omnibus probis hominibus, ad quos præsentes literæ nostræ pervenerint, salutem. Quandoquidem Nos considerantes, quod Generalis Ecclesiæ Scotiæ Conventus in vigesimum tertium diem Maii proximi convenire ordinatus fuit; Nosque abundè cupidi, et necessarium esse judicantes in commodum dictæ ecclesiæ, ut idem generalis conventus die statuto debitè observetur, atque rebus magni momenti Nos aliò vocantibus, dicto conventui personaliter interesse nequimus; Nosque abundè satisfacti de sufficientia et fidelitate fidelissimi et predilectissimi Nostri consanguinei* Davidis Comitis de Leven et Melvill, *quod ad summum munus Nostri supremi Commissionarii ad dictum generalem conventum ritè exercendum et obeundum usquequaque sit instructus: Noveritis igitur, Nos nominasse, constituisse et ordinasse, tenoreque præsentium, nominare, constituere, et ordinare, memoratum fidelissimum et prædilectissimum Nostrum consanguinium* Davidem Comitem de Leven et Melvill, *supremum Nostrum Commissionarium dicto generali ecclesiæ Scotiæ conventui, dando et concedendo illi plenam potestatem, commissionem, et warrantum, sacram Nostram Personam et auctoritatem regalem repræsentandi, nec non presentiam Nostram supplendi, et locum Nostrum in dicto subsequenti generali conventu, tanquam Commissionario Nostro ad hunc effectum specialiter constituto, tenendi, omniaque alia ad imperium et munus Commissionarii pro generali ecclesiæ conventu peragendi, tam plenè adeoque liberè in quovis respectu, quam quilibet alius in eodem summo munere fecerat, seu quovis tempore præterito facere potuerat, vel ac si Nos ipsi personaliter præsentes facere potuerimus. Quæque omnia et singula, quæ dictus* David Comes de Leven et Melvill, *in hac Nostra Commissione prosequenda ligitimè fecerit, seu fieri ordinaverit, Nos firmiter approbamus et ratificamus. Insuper omnibus et singulis dicti conventus et ecclesiæ pastoribus et presbyteris, cæterisque quibuscunque, intra illam partem Magnæ Britanniæ* Scotiam *vocatam, subditis Nostris, cujuscunque gradus seu qualitatis, ut dictum* Davidem Comitem de Leven et Melvill, *tanquam supremum Nostrum Commissionarium, quoad effectum et modum supra mentionatum, revereantur, agnoscant et audiant, strictè mandamus et præcipimus: Atque hanc Nostram Commissionem à dicto vigesimo tertio die Maii proximi incipere, et deinceps durante subsequente*

ſequente ſeſſione dicti generalis conventûs in vigore continuare, declaramus, vel uſque dum à Nobis revocabitur, et exonerabitur. In cujus rei teſtimonium, preſentibus ſigillum Noſtrum per Unionis tractatum cuſtodiend. et in Scotiâ vice et loco Magni Sigilli ejuſdem utend. ordinat. appendi mandavimus. Apud aulam Noſtram apud St James's *vigeſimo quarto die menſis Aprilis, anno Domini milleſimo ſeptingenteſimo et nonageſimo nono, Regnique Noſtri anno trigeſimo nono.*

Per ſignaturam manu S. D. N. Regis ſupraſcriptam.

II.

The KING's moſt gracious Letter to the General Aſſembly, preſented to them by his Majeſty's Commiſſioner.

GEORGE R.

RIGHT REVEREND and Well-beloved, We greet you well. We have thought fit again to conſtitute and appoint Our Right Truſty and Right Well-beloved Couſin DAVID, Earl of LEVEN and MELVILL, to be Our Commiſſioner, and to repreſent Our Royal Perſon in the General Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland.

The manner in which he has heretofore executed this high office, his attachment to Ourſelf, and his affection for the Church, fill Us with aſſurance, that he will adequately anſwer every purpoſe of the truſt with which he is inveſted.

We do moſt ſolemnly repeat Our determination to maintain and preſerve the Church of Scotland in the complete enjoyment of all its juſt rights and privileges: And We are firmly perſuaded, that the conduct of the Church, and the proceedings of the General Aſſembly, will continue ſuch as to merit Our approbation, and to increaſe more and more that paternal love with which we unceaſingly regard you.

At a time when the very principles of Religion and Morality are denied by ſome, and confounded by others;

in theſe perilous days, when wicked men have derided every thing which is grave, juſt and holy; We eſteem it a duty to expreſs Our ſatisfaction at the unabating Zeal, and exemplary Piety, which diſtinguiſh the Church of Scotland; and alſo to exhort you to undeviating perſeverance in the ſame.

We charge you to be inſtant at all ſeaſons in ſeeking after Truth, in defending, teaching and ſpreading it; remembering, that the eyes of the whole Church and Nation are upon you, and that your Brethren look to the deciſions of the General Aſſembly, as Rules to guide them in all matters of Doctrine and Diſcipline.

More particularly, We call upon you to aid, by precept and example, the cauſe of Religion and Virtue in the world, to diſpel the dangerous deluſions of an arrogant and vain Philoſophy, and of Science falſely ſo called, and to direct the minds of the People, over whom you individually exerciſe the paſtoral care, to the revealed will of Almighty GOD.

Finally, We deſire your Prayers to the Supreme Diſpoſer of all Events, That he will be pleaſed to proſper all Our deſigns for the good of the Church of Scotland, and the advancement of the Chriſtian Religion, to avert from theſe Kingdoms thoſe errors which have brought Ruin and Deſolation upon thoſe who have embraced them. To His Almighty protection We commend you; and ſo We bid you heartily farewell. Given at Our Court at St James's, the 17th day of May 1799, in the thirty-ninth year of Our Reign.

By his Majeſty's Command,

PORTLAND.

Addreſſed thus:—*To the Right Reverend and Well-beloved, the Moderator, Miniſters and Elders of the General Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland.*

III.

III.

The General Aſſembly's Anſwer to the KING'S moſt gracious Letter.

Moſt Gracious Sovereign,

THE letter, which it hath pleaſed Your Majeſty to addreſs to this meeting of the General Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland, was received with the moſt profound reſpect and gratitude.

We account ourſelves highly honoured by the repreſentation of the Royal Perſon in our General Aſſemblies, as the gracious ſymbol of the connection between the Church and the State. We have beheld with much ſatisfaction, in many preceding years, this high office committed to a Nobleman, whoſe warm attachment to Your Majeſty, whoſe hereditary affection for the Church of Scotland, whoſe ſteady regard to religion, and whoſe many amiable virtues, render him eminently qualified to anſwer every purpoſe of the truſt with which he is inveſted: And we receive Your Majeſty's renewed appointment of the Earl of LEVEN and MELVILL, as a pledge of the paternal love with which You have unceaſingly regarded us.

We rely, with entire confidence, upon the ſolemn aſſurance of Your Majeſty's determination, to maintain and preſerve the Church of Scotland in the complete enjoyment of all its juſt rights and privileges; and we ſhall ſtudy, upon all occaſions, to conduct ourſelves in ſuch a manner as may entitle us to hope for the continuance of Your Royal approbation.

Your Majeſty's Donation of L. 1000 for the propagation of Chriſtian Knowledge in the Highlands and Iſlands of Scotland, was received with the ſincereſt gratitude, as a renewed inſtance of Your perſevering attention to the religious intereſts of the People committed to our care; and it ſhall be our endeavour to apply it, with fidelity, to the pious purpoſe for which it is beſtowed.

Placed

Placed in the perilous days, ſo well deſcribed in Your Majeſty's moſt gracious letter, when the very principles of Religion and Morality are denied by ſome, and confounded by others; and when wicked men have derided every thing, which is grave and juſt and holy, we have unſpeakable conſolation in thinking that we live under the reign of a Prince, whoſe exemplary piety adorns the throne; who condeſcends to mention, with approbation, the zeal of the Church of Scotland; who calls us by His authority to an undeviating perſeverance in the diſcharge of our duty, and aſſures us of all the encouragement and ſupport, which the circumſtances of the times require.

We liſten, with the moſt profound reſpect, to the ſolemn charge which we receive from Your Majeſty: And it is our determined reſolution, that, in compliance with that charge, and in fulfilment of the duties of our ſacred office, we will, through the ſtrength of the Lord JESUS, be inſtant, at all ſeaſons, in ſeeking after truth, in defending, teaching, and ſpreading it; that we will labour, by precept and by example, to aid the cauſe of Religion and Virtue in the world; that we will endeavour to diſpel the dangerous deluſions of an arrogant and vain Philoſophy, and of Science falſely ſo called; and, in all our miniſtrations, will direct the minds of the people, over whom we exerciſe the paſtoral care, to the revealed will of Almighty GOD, as the only infallible ſtandard of truth, and perfect rule of manners. We feel the ſacred obligations, of which Your Majeſty is graciouſly pleaſed to remind us, that ariſe from our being, in the words of our Great Maſter, 'a city ſet upon an hill;' and we look up to Him for thoſe influences of his Spirit, which may enable us ſo to frame our deciſions, that they may ſecure the reſpect of our brethren, and may guide them in all matters of doctrine and diſcipline.

Conſcious that our exertions, however unremitting and well directed, are of none avail without the bleſſing of Heaven, we ceaſe not to offer our fervent prayers to the Supreme Diſpoſer of all events, beſeeching him to avert from theſe Kingdoms thoſe errors which have brought ruin and deſolation upon all who have embraced them. We bleſs the LORD our GOD who, becauſe he loved us, hath raiſed up a ſucceſſion of Princes in the Illuſtrious Houſe of HANOVER, to be the nurſing Fathers of His Church. We pray that it may pleaſe Him to proſper all Your Majeſty's deſigns for the good of the Church of Scotland, and the advancement of the Chriſtian

ſtian Religion. And, relying upon His Almighty protection, we truſt that, under the wiſe and vigorous adminiſtration of Your Majeſty's Government, our Eccleſiaſtical Eſtabliſhment, which has been cheriſhed with warm affection by the People of Scotland, and which has been the means of diffuſing, amongſt all ranks, the knowledge and the principles of pure and undefiled Religion, ſhall be preſerved from being ſhaken by external violence, or undermined by the machinations of ſecret foes.

That the beſt bleſſings of Heaven may deſcend upon Your MAJESTY, upon our Gracious QUEEN CHARLOTTE, upon the PRINCE and PRINCESS of WALES, and all the Royal Family;—that Your Majeſty may long continue to reign in the hearts of a pious, loyal, free and happy people;—and that, after ſwaying the Britiſh Sceptre for many years with felicity and renown, you may be received into thoſe regions where an unfading Crown awaits the faithful, are the earneſt prayers of,

May it pleaſe Your Majeſty,

Your Majeſty's moſt faithful,

Moſt obedient,

And moſt loyal Subjects,

The Miniſters and Elders met in this General Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in our name,

In our preſence,

And at our appointment, by

EDINBURGH, *May* 25. 1799.

WILLIAM MOODIE, *Moderator.*

IV.

ADDRESS to His MAJESTY on the preſent Situation of Public Affairs.

Moſt Gracious Sovereign,

WE, Your Majeſty's moſt dutiful and loyal ſubjects, the Miniſters and Elders of the Church of Scotland, met in the General Aſſembly, beg leave to approach the Throne with ſentiments of the moſt affectionate attachment to Your Majeſty's Perſon and Government.

Beholding with reverence the conduct of Providence in the permiſſion of thoſe calamitous events which, for years paſt, have afflicted and deſolated ſo many of the neighbouring nations, we feel the moſt lively gratitude to Almighty God, when we contemplate the proſperous condition of Great Britain. Preſerved by the wiſdom of Your Majeſty's Councils, from the traiterous attempts made to diſturb its internal tranquillity, this happy country flouriſhes even in the midſt of war, and communicating to its allies a portion of its own vigour, it has been juſtly regarded as the great bulwark, raiſed by Divine Providence, for reſiſting the progreſs of thoſe deſtructive principles which threatened the total ſubverſion of religion and good government, in every quarter of the world.

We are ſincerely grieved to learn, that there are ſtill among us men inſenſible to the ineſtimable bleſſings we enjoy: But we truſt that their numbers are daily decreaſing; and Your Majeſty may be aſſured, that the Church

Church of Scotland, faithful to her duty, will, in her proper ſphere, co-operate zealouſly with the civil power in counteracting their inſidious deſigns. We have reaſon to think, that the bleſſings of Your Majeſty's paternal Government, aided by the ſalutary reſtraints impoſed on the licentious, have already produced a favourable impreſſion on the minds of many of our fellow-ſubjects, who were formerly diſcontented: And we are perſuaded, that the great body of the people under our charge, notwithſtanding the artful endeavours employed to agitate and divide them, continue firmly attached to the religious and civil conſtitution of their country, and deeply intereſted in whatever may have any tendency to ſtrengthen its ſecurity, and to tranſmit it unimpaired to the lateſt poſterity.

Amidſt the general ſatisfaction with which we contemplate the ſtate of the country, we embrace, with peculiar pleaſure, this firſt opportunity which our meeting affords us, of congratulating Your Majeſty on the ſplendid naval victories gained in the courſe of laſt year by Your Majeſty's arms at the mouth of the Nile, and on the coaſt of Ireland, under the conduct of Lord Nelſon, and Sir John Borlaſe Warren;—victories honourable in the higheſt degree to the good and gallant men by whom they were achieved, highly conducive to the national ſecurity, and moſt important in their conſequences to the general iſſue of the war. And while our devout acknowledgments riſe to the Lord of Hoſts, from whom alone cometh wiſdom and ſtrength, on account of the brilliant events, which, under Your Majeſty's more immediate adminiſtration, have contributed ſo much to the advantage of the common cauſe; we have beheld alſo, with the moſt grateful ſatisfaction, the rapid tide of victory, which has followed of late the arms of Your Majeſty's Allies on the Continent: And we cheriſh the hope, that by a continuation of ſucceſs, Your Majeſty will be ſoon enabled, in concert with Your Allies, to bring this arduous conteſt to a termination, glorious to our country, and ſalutary to the general intereſts of Europe.

That Almighty GOD, the Father of our Lord JESUS CHRIST, may protect Your Majeſty's perſon, direct your Councils, and proſper Your Adminiſtration; that he may bleſs our Gracious Queen, their Royal Highneſſes the Prince and Princeſs of Wales, and all the Royal Family; and that after reigning long with wiſdom and felicity,

licity, over a free, happy and grateful people, You may receive that crown of righteouſneſs which fadeth not away, are the earneſt prayers of,

May it pleaſe Your Majeſty,

Your Majeſty's moſt dutiful,

Moſt faithful,

And moſt obedient Subjects,

The Miniſters and Elders met in this General Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in our name,

In our preſence,

And at our appointment, by

EDINBURGH, May 25. 1799.

WILLIAM MOODIE, *Moderator.*

V.

Declaratory Act of the General Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland, reſpecting unqualified Miniſters and Preachers.

Edinburgh, May 28. 1799. *Seſſ.* 5.

THE General Aſſembly having received Overtures from many Synods, which propoſe that ſome effectual regulations ſhall be made in order to prevent perſons not duly qualified from being employed to preach the word, and to diſpenſe the other ordinances of the Goſpel in the congregations under the care of the Church; conſidering

conſidering that the rules laid down by the Apoſtles of our Lord, require from all who are inveſted with the ſolemn truſt of committing the miniſtry of the word to others, prudence and ſtrictneſs in the trial and judgment of thoſe whom, in the exerciſe of that truſt, they pronounce faithful and apt to teach; conſidering, that the laws of this Church, in conformity to the rules of Scripture, have preſcribed a certain previous courſe of education as neceſſary for all the Probationers thereof, and have directed the Preſbyteries of this Church to employ inquiries and trials of various kinds, in order that they may be fully ſatisfied concerning the literature, ſound doctrine, and ſteady attachment to our conſtitution in Church and State, of thoſe who apply to them for a licence to preach the Goſpel: And conſidering further, that the judicial proceedings of the General Aſſembly, in particular caſes, have interpreted and enforced thoſe laws;—do hereby ENACT and DECLARE, That it is agreeable to the conſtitution, the laws, and the deciſions of this Church, that no Probationer, who has obtained a licence without the bounds of this Church, or who has not obtained a licence from ſome Preſbytery of this Church; and no ordained perſon, who did not obtain his licence from a Preſbytery of this Church, or who, either by going without the bounds of the Church to obtain ordination, although he was not called to a particular congregation in another country, or by any other part of his conduct, has forfeited the licence which he had obtained, ſhall be held qualified to accept of a Preſentation, or a Call, to any Pariſh in this Church, or to any Chapel of Eaſe connected therewith: And the General Aſſembly do hereby enjoin all the Preſbyteries of this Church, if a Preſentation or a Call to any ſuch Probationer, or ordained perſon as is deſcribed in this Act, ſhall at any time be given in to them, inſtantly to pronounce a ſentence, refuſing to ſuſtain ſuch Preſentation or Call, and declaring it null and void.

And further, the General Aſſembly conſidering, that it is of the greateſt importance to the intereſts of true religion, to the ſound inſtruction of the people, to the quiet of their minds, and the peace of the Church and State, that Unqualified Perſons, who intrude themſelves into the miniſtry of the word, ſhall not receive any countenance from the Miniſters of this Church; more eſpecially in the preſent times, when Men, who avow their hoſtility to our Eccleſiaſtical Eſtabliſhment, and their contempt of all the rules which the wiſdom of our anceſtors framed, upon the model of Scripture, for

the orderly diſpenſation of the word and ſacraments, are traverſing all the diſtricts within the bounds of this Church, and attempting to alienate the minds of the people from their eſtabliſhed teachers; conſidering alſo, that it is eſſential to the unity and good order of the Church, and implied in the fundamental principles of Preſbyterian Government, that no Miniſter ſhall preſume to ſet up his individual judgment in oppoſition to the judgment of thoſe to whom, at his ordination, he promiſed ſubjection in the LORD; and that every Miniſter ſhall conſider himſelf as anſwerable to his Preſbytery for the manner in which all the parts of Divine Service are performed, during his incumbency, within the ſtated Place of Worſhip provided by law for that Congregation which is committed to his care;—do hereby DISCHARGE and PROHIBIT, under pain of ſuch cenſures as the Judicatories of this Church may ſee cauſe to inflict, all the miniſters of this Church, and the Miniſters of all Chapels of Eaſe connected therewith, from employing to preach, upon any occaſion, or to diſpenſe any of the other ordinances of the Goſpel, within any Congregation under the juriſdiction of this Church, Perſons who are not qualified, according to the laws of this Church, to accept of a preſentation, and from holding miniſterial communion in any other manner with ſuch perſons: And the General Aſſembly do hereby enjoin all the Preſbyteries of this Church, to attend to any tranſgreſſion of this prohibition which may occur within their bounds, and to ſummon the Miniſter, who is reported as being guilty of ſuch tranſgreſſion, to anſwer for his conduct.

And the Aſſembly ordain their Clerk to tranſmit a copy of this Act, ſeparately printed, to each of the Moderators of the Preſbyteries of this Church, with an injunction to them, to cauſe the ſame to be engroſſed in the records of their reſpective Preſbyteries.

VI.

VI.

[*Re-tranſmitted.*]

Overture reſpecting the Attendance of Students on the Divinity Hall.

Edinburgh, May 29. 1797. *Seſſ. ult.*

THE Committee on the Overture from the Syond of Aberdeen, reſpecting the attendance of Students on the Divinity Halls, having maturely deliberated on the ſaid Overture, Report to the Venerable Aſſembly, That, in their opinion, it ought to be expreſſed in the following terms, *viz.* "It is Overtured, that Students "in Divinity, who propoſe to proſecute their ſtudies "for ſix Seſſions, ſhould be required to give as much "partial attendance, during the currency of thoſe Seſ-"ſions, in the Divinity Halls, which they reſpectively "attend, as ſhall, in the whole, amount to ſix months."

The General Aſſembly approved of the above report, and ordered the ſame to be tranſmitted, as an Overture, for the conſideration of Preſbyteries.

VII.

VII.

[*Re-tranſmitted.*]

Edinburgh, May 25. 1798. *Seſſ.* 8.

Upon the Report of the Committee on the clauſe of the Overture from the Synod of Glaſgow and Ayr, reſpecting the courſe of Univerſity Education, to be obſerved by Students previous to their entering the Divinity Hall, the General Aſſembly unanimouſly agreed to tranſmit the following Overture on that ſubject, to the ſeveral Preſbyteries of this Church, enjoining them to ſend up their opinions thereon to the next Aſſembly.

Overture reſpecting the Courſe of Univerſity Education, to be obſerved by Students, previous to their entering the Divinity Hall.

WHEREAS it has been repreſented, That Students intended for the holy Miniſtry, do ſometimes hurry over their courſe of Philoſophy in two Seſſions of the Univerſity, it is overtured, that it be recommended to Students, previous to their entering a Divinity Hall, to ſtudy Literature and Philoſophy at an Univerſity, during a courſe of five complete Seſſions, in the following order, *viz.*

Seſſion 1*ſt*, Humanity or Latin, with the Elements of Greek, in the firſt Humanity and Greek Claſſes.

Seſſion 2*d*, Latin and Greek, in the higher Humanity and Greek Claſſes; with the Elements of Mathematics.

Seſſion 3*d*, Logic, with Greek and Mathematics in the higher Claſſes.

Seſſion 4*th*, } Natural and Moral Philoſophy; but not
Seſſion 5*th*, } both in the ſame Seſſion; together with Latin

Latin again, or Greek, or Mathematics, in one or more of the higher Claſſes.

But that it ſhall be expreſsly enacted, That no Profeſſor of Divinity ſhall admit any Student into the Divinity Hall, until he produce certificates of his having ſtudied at an Univerſity, during three complete Seſſions, in the following Claſſes, *viz.* Logic, together with Greek in the higher Greek Claſs; and Natural and Moral Philoſophy; it being, in this caſe, underſtood, that ſuch Students are well grounded in Latin, and the Elements of Greek, previous to their entering the Univerſity.

VIII.

[*Re-tranſmitted.*]

Edinburgh, May 28. 1798. *Seſſ. ult.*

UPON the Report of the Committee for claſſing returns to Overtures,—The Aſſembly unanimouſly agreed to retranſmit the Overture reſpecting the Licenſing of Probationers; alſo the Overture reſpecting the Attendance of Students on the Divinity Hall; and particularly, enjoin ſuch Preſbyteries as have ſent no returns, to ſend up their Opinions to next Aſſembly; and that Preſbyteries ſhall appoint a day for the conſideration of theſe two Overtures at their firſt Meeting after receiving the printed Acts of Aſſembly; and that they ſhall alſo take into their conſideration on the ſame day, the Overture reſpecting the Courſe of Univerſity Education, to be obſerved by Students previous to their entering the Divinity Hall, tranſmitted by this Aſſembly.

New Overture reſpecting the Licenſing of Probationers.

Edinburgh, May 25. 1792. *Seſſ.* 8.

THE General Aſſembly having taken under their ſerious conſideration, the great danger to which the intereſts of Religion and of this Church may be ex-

poſed, by licenſing any to preach the Goſpel who are not duly qualified for that important truſt, do hereby enact and ordain, That in all time coming the following regulations ſhall be ſtrictly obſerved:

I. It is hereby enacted, That no Student ſhall be entered upon the Roll of any Profeſſor of Divinity, unleſs he ſhall produce to the ſaid Profeſſor a certificate from the Miniſter of the pariſh in which he has his uſual reſidence; or in his abſence, or during a vacancy in ſaid pariſh, from ſome neighbouring Miniſter, bearing, that his character is ſuitable to his views; together with a diploma of Maſter of Arts, or certificates from the ſeveral Profeſſors of Philoſophy, under whom he hath ſtudied, from which it may be clearly aſcertained that, in ſome Univerſity or Univerſities, he hath gone through a full courſe of Philoſophy, in ſome winter-ſeſſions of College preceding that in which the certificates are produced.

II. The General Aſſembly do likewiſe hereby ordain, That all Students who have been inrolled by Profeſſors of Divinity, in the manner preſcribed by this act, ſhall continue to proſecute the ſtudy of Divinity for the term of ſix Seſſions: Provided always, That if any Student hath given regular attendance in the Divinity Hall during three Seſſions, his Courſe ſhall be conſidered as completed in four Seſſions; and that if he hath given regular attendance in the Hall during two Seſſions, his Courſe ſhall be conſidered as completed in five Seſſions. And the Aſſembly do further ordain, That in each of theſe caſes, Students ſhall be inrolled by the Profeſſors during the ſeveral Seſſions of their reſpective Courſes, and deliver in the Divinity Hall, in the manner herein afterwards provided, an Exegeſis in Latin, on ſome controverted Head in Divinity, a Homily in Engliſh, an Exerciſe and Addition, a Lecture on ſome large portion of Scripture, and a popular Sermon, together with ſuch other exerciſes as the Profeſſors ſhall think proper to preſcribe. And the Aſſembly further enact and declare, That a Student is entitled to apply to the Profeſſor for his certificates, that he may be propoſed for trials, and that the preliminary ſteps may be taken by the Preſbytery during the currency of the laſt Seſſion of his Courſe, as above deſcribed; with this limitation, that if the ſaid laſt Seſſion is to be claimed as a Seſſion of regular attendance, he ſhall, toward the concluſion thereof, obtain

tain a new certificate of his attendance during its currency, and produce the ſame to the Preſbytery or Synod.

III. Profeſſors of Divinity are required to attend, as much as circumſtances may permit, to the conduct of ſuch Students as are under their care, and, as far as they find it practicable, to inſiſt that every Student ſhall deliver his firſt Diſcourſe ſome time during his ſecond Seſſion, at the lateſt, and the remainder of his Diſcourſes at ſuch periods as may enable him to deliver the whole of them before the end of January of the laſt Seſſion of his Courſe.

IV. When a Student is propoſed to any Preſbytery, in order to be taken upon trials, the Preſbytery ſhall be alone, and the motion for that purpoſe ſhall lie upon the table till their next ordinary meeting. In the mean time, the Preſbytery ſhall appoint the Member by whom the Student has been propoſed, to lay before the ſaid meeting the certificate or certificates in favour of the Student, that are ſpecified in the third paragraph of the fifth ſection of this act; to deſire him to attend the ſame; and to inform him, that, previouſly to the meeting, he ought, as far as circumſtances may permit, to wait on ſuch Miniſters of the Preſbytery as have not formerly had an opportunity of converſing with him in private.

V. When the time appointed for conſidering the motion is arrived, the Preſbytery ſhall ſtrictly obſerve the following regulations.

1*ſt*, The Preſbytery ſhall be alone, while they are employed in diſcuſſing the ſeveral preliminaries reſpecting Students who are propoſed for trials.

2*d*, They ſhall require ſatisfying evidence, that every Student who is propoſed for that purpoſe has completed the twenty-firſt year of his age.

3*d*, No Student ſhall be admitted to trials, unleſs he produces to the Preſbytery a certificate or certificates from the Profeſſor or Profeſſors of Divinity, under whoſe tuition he hath ſtudied, bearing, that he hath proſecuted his ſtudies, and delivered his Diſcourſes, in the manner preſcribed by this act; and that his conduct, as far as conſiſts with the knowledge of the ſaid Profeſſor, or Profeſſors, has been in every reſpect ſuitable to his views in life. And the General Aſſembly do likewiſe hereby enact, That the Preſbytery ſhall record at full length

length the ſaid certificate, or certificates, in their minutes: And it is hereby enacted and declared, That the Student having lodged ſuch certificate or certificates, ſhall be entitled to obtain extracts of the ſame, if demanded.

4*th*, No Preſbytery ſhall receive any Student upon trials, unleſs they are ſatisfied that he is of good report; ſound in his principles; pious, ſober, grave, and prudent, in his behaviour; of a peaceable diſpoſition; and well affected to the happy eſtabliſhment in this kingdom, both in Church and State. And, that the Preſbytery may preceed with all due caution, in a matter of ſuch peculiar importance, they ſhall not agree to the motion in behalf of the Student, unleſs his reſidence, during the year proceding, has been chiefly within their bounds, or he ſhall produce ſufficient teſtimonials from the Preſbytery, in whoſe bounds his reſidence has chiefly been, during that term, bearing, that his character is ſuch as is deſcribed in the immediately preceding ſentence of this paragraph, and recommending him, in theſe reſpects, to the Preſbytery before whom the propoſal is made, as a proper perſon to be entered upon trials.

5*th*, The Preſbytery ſhall not agree to the motion in favour of the Student, unleſs they are ſatisfied that he has made a competent degree of proficiency in thoſe ſeveral branches of knowledge which are neceſſary to enable him to be an uſeful Preacher of the Goſpel. And the General Aſſembly ordain, that the Preſbytery, in order to procure full information in this reſpect, ſhall examine the Student ſtrictly, and privately, on his knowledge of the Greek and Latin languages, and of Philoſophy and Theology.

6*th*, If, after theſe preliminary ſteps have been taken, the Preſbytery ſhall be of opinion that the Student is duly qualified in theſe ſeveral particulars, they ſhall record this opinion in their minutes, and order their clerk to write letters to the ſeveral Preſbyteries within the bounds of the Provincial Synod, two kalendar months at leaſt before the meeting of the ſame, informing them of the Preſbytery's intention to take the Student upon Public Trials, and bearing, that the certificate, or certificates in his favour, which are required by this act, have been regularly laid before them. But it is hereby provided, That within the bounds of ſuch Synods as meet only once a-year, a Student may be entitled to have theſe circular letters written half a-year ſooner than would be otherwiſe competent.

VI. The

VI. The General Aſſembly do likewiſe hereby enact and declare, That, at the requeſt of the Student, it ſhall be competent to any Preſbytery to transfer the receiving of the Public Trials, or any part thereof, certifying to the Preſbytery to which the transference is to be made, that the various preliminary ſteps have been taken according to the directions of this act; and that ſuch parts of the Public and Private Trials as have been already gone through have been received with approbation.

VII. If a Student have ſtudied, either in whole or in part, in Proteſtant Univerſities, which are not within the bounds of this Church, he ſhall, when he is propoſed to any Preſbytery for trials, be required to produce ſatisfying teſtimonials from the Profeſſors of Divinity in ſaid Univerſities; and the time which theſe profeſſors ſhall certify to have been employed by him in ſtudying Divinity under their tuition, ſhall be computed in the ſame manner as if he had proſecuted his ſtudies in any of the Univerſities within the bounds of this Church. But it is hereby provided, That no Student, in ſuch circumſtances, ſhall be admitted even to thoſe private trials which are appointed to be taken before the writing of the circular letters, ſooner than ſix kalendar months after his arrival in Scotland.

VIII. The General Aſſembly ordain, That, if a Preſbytery propoſe to take a Student upon Public Trials, and have, with that view, written the circular letters, as is herein required, public intimation thereof ſhall be made at ſome diet of the next meeting of the Provincial Synod, which ſhall not be the laſt diet thereof: And the Preſbytery clerk is hereby required to tranſmit to the Synod clerk an extract of the certificate or certificates laid before the Preſbytery in favour of the Student, in order that the ſame may be produced at this diet of the Synod. And it is likewiſe hereby ordained, That at ſome ſubſequent diet of the Synod, particular inquiry ſhall be made, whether any of the members of the Court has any objection to offer againſt the Student being entered upon Public Trials: And that the Synod then, taking into conſideration the extract produced, and the whole of the caſe, ſhall judge of the expediency of allowing the Preſbytery to admit the Student on trials: Or, if in any caſe the Preſbytery clerk ſhall fail to tranſmit the extracts of the certificates above mentioned, the Student may produce to the Synod, by himſelf, or by

any Member of the Court, the extract of the ſame, which by this act he is entitled to obtain.

IX. If the Synod ſhall allow the Student to be taken upon Public Trials, the Preſbytery ſhall proceed therein with all convenient ſpeed; and the Aſſembly appoint the following trials to be taken of the Student, and in the order herein mentioned: 1*ſt*, Catechetic trials on Divinity, Chronology, and Church Hiſtory; 2*d*, A trial on the Hebrew and Greek languages; 3*d*, An Exegeſis in Latin on ſome controverted Head in Divinity; 4*th*, A Homily in Engliſh; 5*th*, An Exerciſe and Addition; 6*th*, A Lecture on ſome large portion of Scripture; 7*th*, A popular Sermon; it being underſtood, that if the Preſbytery ſee cauſe, they may examine the Student upon the ſubject of theſe ſeveral Diſcourſes.

X. The Student having gone through the ſeveral trials, which are mentioned in the immediately preceding ſection of this act, the Preſbytery are ordained to proceed in the following order.

1*ſt*, They ſhall, deliberately and ſeriouſly, take a conjunct view of the whole trials; and if they ſhall be of opinion, that the Student is not properly qualified to perform the duties incumbent upon a Preacher of the Goſpel, they ſhall by no means grant him a Licenſe in his preſent circumſtances.

2*d*, If, upon this review of the trials, the Preſbytery are fully ſatisfied therewith, they ſhall record this opinion in their minutes.

3*d*, The Preſbytery ſhall then propoſe to the Student the queſtions that are appointed to be put to all who paſs Trials by act 10th, Aſſembly 1711, and require him to ſubſcribe the *Formula* which is preſcribed by the ſaid act. And the General Aſſembly ſtrictly prohibit all Preſbyteries from licenſing any Student to preach the Goſpel, who ſhall not give explicit and ſatisfying anſwers to theſe queſtions, and ſubſcribe the ſaid *Formula*.

4*th*, The Preſbytery ſhall order the act of Aſſembly 1759, againſt Simoniacal practices, to be read to the Student in their preſence.

Laſtly, The Preſbytery ſhall appoint their Moderator to licenſe the Student to preach the Goſpel, and order their Clerk to furniſh him with an extract of his licenſe.

XI. For

XI. For the better obſervance of this act, the General Aſſembly ordain, *1ſt*, That it ſhall be printed among their other printed acts: *2d*, That it ſhall be printed by itſelf, in ſome convenient form; *3d*, That a copy of this ſeparate edition ſhall be tranſmitted to each Profeſſor of Divinity in the Univerſities of Scotland; and that the ſaid Profeſſors ſhall read the ſame in their reſpective Halls, once at leaſt during every Seſſion, and at ſuch times as they have reaſon to expect the attendance of the greateſt number of Students for that Seſſion; and, *laſtly*, That a copy of the ſame edition ſhall likewiſe be tranſmitted to the Clerks of each Synod and Preſbytery, within the bounds of this Church, and that the ſaid Clerks ſhall keep the ſame along with their minutes, and bring it up to each meeting of their reſpective Courts, for the uſe of the Members.

IX.

COMMISSION of the General Aſſembly to certain Miniſters and Ruling Elders, for diſcuſſing affairs referred to them.

Edinburgh, June 1. 1799. *Seſſ.* 9.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY did, and hereby do nominate, commiſſion and appoint, the Reverend Dr WILLIAM MOODIE, one of the miniſters of the City, and Profeſſor of Hebrew in the Univerſity, of Edinburgh, their Moderator: And,—From the *Preſbytery* of *Strathbogie*, Mr Alexander Angus at Botriphnie, Mr John Finlater at Glaſs, *Miniſters;* Mr Baron Gordon, *Ruling Elder:* — From the *Preſbytery* of *Aberlour*, Mr George, Cruikſhank at Rothes, Mr William Spence at Inveraven, *Miniſters;* The Honourable Arthur Duff, Eſq; of Orton, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Abernethy*, Mr Patrick Grant at Duthil, Mr Gregor Grant at Cromdale *Miniſters;*

Miniſters; Dr Gregory Grant, phyſician in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Elgin*, Mr William Gordon at Elgin, Mr James Gillan at Speymouth, *Miniſters;* The Moſt Noble the Marquis of Huntly, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Burgh* of *Elgin*, Mr William Blair, writer to the Signet:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Forres*, Mr David Miln at Edinkellie, Mr William Stephen at Rafford, *Miniſters;* George Cumin of Relugas, Eſq; *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Burgh* of *Forres*, Mr Robert Gordon, writer to the Signet:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Nairn*, Mr Hugh Calder at Croy, Mr Donald Mitchell at Ardclach, *Miniſters;* Mr Alexander Grant, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Inverneſs*, Mr Alexander Fraſer at Inverneſs, Mr William Smith at Petty, *Miniſters;* Simon Fraſer of Faraline, Eſq; *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Chanonry*, Mr Robert Arthur at Kirkmichael and Cullicuden, Mr Roderick Mackenzie at Kilmuir Weſter, *Miniſters;* Mr William Sprott, Solicitor at Law, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Tain*, Mr Alexander Monro at Edderton, Mr Angus Macintoſh at Tain, *Miniſters;* Charles Roſs, Eſq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Dingwall*, Mr James Dallas at Contin, Mr Daniel Roſe at Dingwall, *Miniſters;* Mr Kenneth Mackenzie, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Abertarph*, Mr Patrick Grant of Boleſkeen, Mr Thomas Roſs at Kilmanivaig, *Miniſters;* Coll Macdonald, Eſq; of Dalneſs, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Sky*, Mr Donald Mackinnon at Strath, Mr Donald Maclean at Small Iſles, *Miniſters;* The Right Honourable Lord Macdonald, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Uiſt*, Mr Edmund Macqueen at Barra, Dr John Macleod at Harris, *Miniſters;* Mr Hector Macdonald Buchannan, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Lochcarron*, Mr Colin Maciver at Glenelg, Mr Lauchlan Mackenzie at Lochcarron, *Miniſters;* Bailie Daniel Miller, merchant, Canongate, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Tongue*, Mr William Thomſon at Durneſs, Mr James Dingwall at Farr, *Miniſters;* Mr William Maclean, merchant, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Caithneſs*, Mr George Mackenzie at Olrick, Mr William Smith at Bower, *Miniſters;* Sir John Sinclair of Ulbſter, Baronet, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Burgh* of *Wick*, Mr James Horne, writer to the Signet:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Kirkwall*, Mr James Watſon at South Ronaldſay, Mr Robert Yule at Kirkwall, *Miniſters;* Mr Thomas Gordon

don, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Cairſtone*, Mr John Malcolm at Firth and Stenneſs, Mr Gavin Hamilton at Hoy and Græmeſay, *Miniſters*; Commiſſioner Reid, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *North Iſles*, Mr William Grant at Croſs Pariſh, Mr James Paterſon at Rouſay, *Miniſters*; Commiſſioner Grieve, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Zetland*, Mr James Sands at Tingwall, Mr John Nicolſon at Unſt, *Miniſters*; Profeſſor Andrew Dalzel, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Edinburgh*, Dr William Gloag, Edinburgh, Dr John Walker at Colington, Dr Thomas Davidſon, Edinburgh, Mr Robert Walker, Canongate, Mr David Black, Edinburgh, Mr James Grant at Liberton, *Miniſters*; Andrew Wauchope, Eſq; of Niddry Marſhall, Bailie George Spankie, Ephraim Lockart, Eſq; of the Cuſtoms, Leith, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *City* of *Edinburgh*, The Right Honourable Sir James Stirling, Baronet, Lord Provoſt of the City, Mr William Rankin, Convener of the Trades:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Linlithgow*, Mr Walter Jardine at Bathgate, Mr James Rhind at Whitburn, Mr John Ferguſon at Uphall, Mr James Robertſon at Slamannan, *Miniſters*; The Right Honourable Lord Torphichen, Mr John Meek, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Burgh* of *Linlithgow*, Robert Blair, Eſq; of Avonton, His Majeſty's Solicitor-General:—From the *Burgh* of *Queensferry*, Mr James Taylor, ſhipmaſter in Queensferry:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Biggar*, Mr John Gordon at Dolphington, Mr William Porteous at Kilbucho, Mr John Alpine at Skirling, *Miniſters*; Mr David Stodart, tenant at Eaſton of Dunſyre, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Peebles*, Dr William Dalglieſh at Peebles, Mr Patrick Robertſon at Eddleſton, *Miniſters*; James Montgomery, Eſq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Peebles*, Mr Thomas Craufoun, writer to the Signet:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Dalkeith*, Dr Alexander Carlyle at Invereſk, Mr Ebenezer Marſhall at Cockpen, Mr Leſlie Moodie at Newton, *Miniſters*; The Right Honourable the Lord Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Haddington*, Dr Robert Lorimer at Haddington, Mr Andrew Niſbet at Garvald, Mr George Goldie at Athelſtoneford, *Miniſters*; William Law, Eſq; of Elvingſtone, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Haddington*, Robert Roughead, Eſq; preſent Provoſt of Haddington:—From the *Burgh* of *North Berwick*, Sir Hew Hamilton Dalrymple of Bargeny and North Berwick:—From the *Preſbytery* of Dunbar, Mr Alexander Davidſon at Stenton, Mr An-

drew Spence at Cockburnpath, *Miniſters;* The Honourable Charles, Earl of Hadinton, *Ruling Elder*: —From the *Preſbytery* of *Dunſe*, Mr William Simpſon at Greenlaw, Mr James Baird at Eccles, *Miniſters;* Mr Mathew Sandilands, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder:* — From the *Preſbytery* of *Churnſide*, Dr Walter Anderſon at Churnſide, Mr Robert Scott at Coldſtream, *Miniſters;* George Buchan, Eſq; of Kello, *Ruling Elder*: —From the *Preſbytery* of *Kelſo*, Mr Robert Turnbuil at Sprouſton, Mr Robert Robertſon at Ednam, *Miniſters;* Sir James Pringle of Stitchell, Baronet, *Ruling Elder:*— From the *Preſbytery* of *Jedburgh*, Mr William Brown at Bedrule, Mr David Brown at Crailing, Dr Thomas Somerville at Jedburgh, *Miniſters;* Mr James Dickſon, merchant, Hawick, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Lauder*, Mr William Shiells at Weſtruther, Mr Henry Garnock at Legertwood, *Miniſters;* George Baillie, Eſq; of Jerviſwood, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Selkirk*, Mr Charles Paton at Etterick, Mr James Hay at Roberton, *Miniſters;* Mark Pringle, Eſq; of Clifton, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Burgh* of *Selkirk*, Mr Alexander Cunningham, jeweller in Edinburgh:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Annan*, Mr Alexander Monelaws at Kirkpatrick Fleming, Mr John Morgan at Gratnay, *Miniſters;* Joſeph Norres, Eſq; of Newfield, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Langholm*, Mr John Ruſſell at Canoby, Mr William Brown at Eſkdalemuir, *Miniſters;* Mr John Peat, writer in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Lochmaben*, Mr William Sibbald at Johnſton, Mr William Singer at Wamphray, Mr David Dickſon at St Mungo, *Miniſters;* Mr Henry Jardine, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Burgh* of *Lochmaben*, Mr William Johnſton, writer, Edinburgh:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Penpont*, Mr James Wilſon at Tynron, Mr John Williamſon at Dureſdeer, *Miniſters;* Mr Thomas Black in Glencairn, *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Preſbytery* of *Dumfries*, Dr David Lamont at Kirkpatrick Durham, Dr William Burnſide at Dumfries, Mr Joſeph Eiſton at Troquir, *Miniſters;* Thomas Crichton, younger of Auchinſkeoch, Eſq; *Ruling Elder:*—From the *Burgh* of *Dumfries*, Mr Hugh Corrie, writer to the Signet:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Kirkcudbright*, Dr Robert Muter at Kirkcudbright, Mr Robert Gordon at Carsfairn, Mr Alexander Macgown at Dalry, *Miniſters;* James Gordon, younger of Culvenan, Eſq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder:* — From the *Burgh* of *Wigton*, Mr John Jeffrey, writer, Edinburgh:—From the *Burgh* of *Whithorn*, Mr John Buſhby,

Sheriff-

Sheriff-clerk of Dumfries:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Stranraer*, Mr William Roſe at Kirkolm, Mr Andrew Maccubbin at Leſwalt, *Miniſters*; Mr Thomas Adair, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Stranraer*, Mr Thomas Smith, one of the Principal Clerks to the Bills:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Ayr*, Dr Thomas Miller at Old Cumnock, Mr Stephen Young at Barr, Dr William Peebles at Newton upon Ayr, Mr John Lindſay at Auchinleck, Mr Robert Steven at Dalrymple, *Miniſters*; Thomas Kennedy, Eſq; of Denure, James Ferguſſon, Eſq; Advocate, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Burgh* of *Ayr*, George Ferguſſon, Eſq; Advocate:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Irvine*, Mr John Fullarton at Dalry, Mr James Richmond at Irvine, Dr William Ritchie at Kilwinning, *Miniſters*; David Boyle, Eſq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Paiſley*, Mr Robert Anderſon at Eaſtwood, Mr James Smith at Abbey Church, Mr William Hood at Neilſton, Mr Jonathan Ranken at Paiſley, *Miniſters*; Robert Barclay, Eſq; Chief Magiſtrate of Paiſley, Archibald Campbell, Eſq; younger of Clathick, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Hamilton*, Mr John Scott at Avendale, Mr Alexander Fleming at Hamilton, Mr John Robertſon at Cambuſlang, *Miniſters*; Profeſſor George Jardine, Glaſgow, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Lanark*, Mr George Mark at Carnwath, Mr William Maccubbin at Douglas, *Miniſters*; John Fullarton, Eſq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Glaſgow*, Dr William Taylor at Glaſgow, Mr Robert Balfour at Glaſgow, Mr Archibald Proven at Cadder, Mr William Finlay at Eagleſham, *Miniſters*; Sir John Stirling of Glorat, Baronet, Mr Andrew Paton, merchant in Glaſgow, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *City* of *Glaſgow*, John Dunlop, Eſq; of Roſebank:—From the *Burgh* of *Rutherglen*, Mr James Davidſon, writer to the Signet:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Dumbarton*, Mr David Macgibbon at Buchanan, Mr John Mitchell at Fintray, Mr William Macartney at Old Kilpatrick, *Miniſters*; The Right Honourable the Lord Preſident, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Dumbarton*, Archibald Campbell younger of Succoth, Eſq;:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Dunoon*, Mr Archibald Maclea at Rothſay, Mr Hugh Mactaviſh at Inverchaolan, *Miniſters*; John Lamont of Lamont, Eſq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Rothſay*, William Macleod Bannatyne, Eſq; of Kames, (now one of the Senators of the College of Juſtice):—From the *Preſbytery* of *Kintyre*, Dr John Smith at Campbelton, Mr William Fraſer at Gigha, Mr James Mackintoſh,

at

at Killarow, *Miniſters*; Robert Davidſon, Eſq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Campbelton*, William Campbell, Eſq; of Fairfield:—From the *Burgh* of *Inverary*, Humphrey Trawfurd Campbell, Eſq; younger of Aſhniſh:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Lorn*, Dr Joſeph Macintyre at Glenorchy, Mr Alexander Macintyre at Kilchrenan, *Miniſters*; John Campbell of Lochend, Eſq; *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Mull*, Mr Alexander Campbell at Ardnamurchan, Mr Archibald Macarthur at Kilninian, *Miniſters*; Ranald Macdonald, Eſq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Dunkeld*, Mr William Innerarity at Caputh, Mr Alexander Niven at Dunkeld, Mr Alexander Stewart at Moulin, Mr Laurence Butter at Lethindy, *Miniſters*; John Hagart, Eſq; Advocate, Mr John Macritchie, writer in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Perth*, Mr Lewis Dunbar at Kinnoul, Mr John Inglis at Tibbermuir, Mr William Aitken at Scone, Mr John Duff at Kinfauns, *Miniſters*; Mr Alexander Beatſon, writer to the Signet, Bailie James Dickſon, bookſeller, Edinburgh, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Stirling*, Mr Robert Ure *ſenior* at Airth, Mr John Watſon at Dollar, *Miniſters*; William Murray, Eſq; of Touchadam, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Auchterarder*, Mr John Scott at Muthill, Mr Colin Baxter at Monyvaird, Mr Patrick Maciſaac at Gaſk, *Miniſters*; Patrick Murray, younger of Auchtertyre, Eſq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Dunblane*, Mr Chriſtopher Tait at Kincardine, Mr John Campbell at Kippen, *Miniſters*; Mr William Campbell, writer, Edinburgh:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Dunfermline*, Mr David Balfour at Toryburn, Mr Walter Macalpin at Culroſs, Mr William Daling at Clieſh, *Miniſters*; Sir Charles Preſton of Velayfield, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Kirkcaldy*, Mr George Shaw at Abbotshall, Mr Andrew Grant at Portmoak, Mr George Muirhead at Dyſart, *Miniſters*; Lieutenant-Colonel Roger Ayton of Inchdairney, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Burgh* of *Bruntiſland*, Mr Andrew Iſedale, merchant, Bruntiſland:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Cupar*, Dr Samuel Martin at Monymeal, Dr Andrew Brown at Falkland, Mr Joſeph Crichton at Ceres, Mr John Cook at Kilmeny, *Miniſters*; George Greenlaw of Hilton, Eſq; Mr Walter Cook, writer in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *St Andrew's*, Profeſſor Charles Wilſon, St Mary's College, Mr Alexander Small at Kilconquhar, Mr James Hunter at Deninno, Mr James Clerk at Ely, *Miniſters*; Lieutenant-Colonel Alexander Monypenny

of

of Pitmilly, Profeſſor John Rotheram, United College, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Burgh* of *St Andrew's*, Joſeph Maccormick, Eſq; Advocate:—From the *Univerſity* of *St Andrew's*, Dr George Hill, Principal of St Mary's College:—From the *Burgh* of *Crail*, Mr Thomas Weir, writer, Edinburgh:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Meigle*, Mr James Stormonth at Airly, Mr Patrick Maclaren at Ruthven, Mr William Haldane at Glenisla, *Miniſters*; Sir William Ramſay of Banff, Baronet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Forfar*, Mr James Lyon at Glamis, Mr John Bruce at Forfar, *Miniſters*; Profeſſor Henry David Hill, St Andrew's:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Dundee*, Mr William Maul at Moneikie, Mr Charles Cunningham at Lundie and Foulis, Mr Patrick Macvicar at Dundee, *Miniſters*; George Paterſon, Eſq; of Caſtlehuntly, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Aberbrothock*, Mr James Will at Guthrie, Mr David Traill at Panbride, *Miniſters*; Mr Thomas Milne, merchant, Canongate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Brechin*, Mr Robert Hannah at Strickathrow, Mr Alexander Burnet at Caraldſtone, Mr James Burns at Brechin, *Miniſters*; Charles Hope, Eſq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Fordoun*, Mr James Walker at Dunnotter, Mr Robert Croll at Bervie, Mr George Cook at Laurencekirk, *Miniſters*; John Burnett, Eſq; Advocate, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Aberdeen*, Mr William Strachan at Durris, Dr William Laurence Brown, Principal, Mariſchall College, Aberdeen, Dr Gilbert Gerard, Profeſſor of Divinity in King's College, Mr George Allan at Newhills, *Miniſters*; William Robertſon, Eſq; Procurator for the Church, William Simpſon, Eſq; Caſhier to the Royal Bank, *Ruling Elders*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Kincardine O'Neal*, Mr George Brown at Glenmuick, Mr Robert Farquharſon at Coldſtone, Mr Alexander Henderſon at Echt, *Miniſters*; William Macdonald, Eſq; of Renetton, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Alford*, Mr Thomas Birnie at Alford, Mr William Spence at Glenbucket, Mr Alexander Urquhart at Touch, *Miniſters*; James Gordon, Eſq; younger of Craig, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Ellon*, Mr Thomas Tait at Ellon, Mr George Pirie at Slains, *Miniſters*; Profeſſor Hugh Macleod, Glaſgow, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Garioch*, Mr John Shand at Chapel Garioch, Mr Patrick Mitchell at Kemnay, Mr William Cock at Culſalmond, *Miniſters*; Mr William Gordon of Rothney, writer to

the Signet, *Ruling Elder*: — From the *Preſbytery* of *Deer*, Mr William Anderſon, at St Fergus, Mr James Greig at Pitſligo, Mr William Greig at Longſide, *Miniſters*; Mr John Taylor, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Turriff*, Mr Robert Duff at King Edward, Mr William Stuart at Turriff, *Miniſters*; Mr Archibald Milne, writer to the Signet, *Ruling Elder*:—From the *Preſbytery* of *Fordyce*, Mr Alexander Humphry at Fordyce, Mr Alexander Gray at Ordiquhill, *Miniſters*; Mr George Andrew, writer in Edinburgh, *Ruling Elder*:—And the General Aſſembly added thereto, Dr James Finlayſon, one of the Miniſters of Edinburgh, in place of the Moderator: and alſo from the *Burgh* of *Renfrew*, Mr John Connell, Advocate, whoſe commiſſion had been rejected on account of informality; TO BE COMMISSIONERS of this General Aſſembly, to the effect after mentioned; with power to the ſaid Commiſſioners, or their quorum, which is hereby declared to be any thirty-one of the ſaid Commiſſioners, whereof twenty-one are always to be Miniſters, to meet and convene within the Aſſembly-houſe at Edinburgh, the firſt day after the diſſolution of this Aſſembly, at ten of the clock in the forenoon; and thereafter, the ſecond Wedneſday of Auguſt, third Wedneſday of November, and the firſt Wedneſday of March next to come, and oftener, when and where they ſhall think fit and convenient, with power to the ſaid Commiſſioners to chooſe their own Moderator: And likewiſe, the General Aſſembly fully empowers their ſaid Commiſſioners, or their quorum above mentioned, to cognoſce and finally determine, as they ſhall ſee cauſe, in every matter referred, or that ſhall be referred to them, by an act or order of this Aſſembly; and to do every thing contained in, and conform to the inſtructions given, or to be given by this Aſſembly; and to advert to the intereſt of the Church on every occaſion, that the Church, and preſent eſtabliſhment thereof, do not ſuffer or ſuſtain any prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be anſwerable: Provided always, that this general clauſe be not extended to particular affairs or proceſſes before Synods or Preſbyteries, that are not of univerſal concern to, or influence upon, the whole Church. And it is hereby appointed, that no private proceſſes be determined, except at the four ſtated diets; and what ſhall be determined at one diet of the Commiſſion, with relation to private cauſes, ſhall be unalterable by any other

other diet thereof, and ſhall ſtand and continue in force till diſapproved of by the General Aſſembly. And the Aſſembly renews the inſtructions given by the General Aſſembly in the year One thouſand ſeven hundred and ſeventeen to their Commiſſion, and appoints the ſame to ſtand in full force as inſtructions to the Commiſſioners before named, and to be obſerved by them in all points, as if the ſame were ſpecially here inſerted; and that they inquire into the publiſhing and ſpreading of books and pamphlets, tending towards the promoting of opinions of whatever kind, inconſiſtent with our *Confeſſion of Faith*; and that the recommenders of ſuch books and pamphlets, or the errors therein contained, whether by word, writ, or print, be called before the ſaid Commiſſion, to anſwer for the ſame. And further, the ſaid Commiſſion is hereby empowered to receive any references and appeals that ſhall be made to them from Synods, in matters of doctrine, and ripen ſuch affairs for the next General Aſſembly; and to contribute what they can to the ſuppreſſing of vice and immorality, and give all needful advice and aſſiſtance to Synods and Preſbyteries, upon application to them for that end: Likewiſe, to take care that the impreſſions of the *Holy Scriptures*, the *Confeſſion of Faith*, and *Catechiſms*, and ſuch books as are authorized by this Church, relating to the doctrine, worſhip, diſcipline and government thereof, be correct; and give directions about printing the ſame. And the Commiſſioners are appointed and empowered to keep a correſpondence with the Committee for reformation of the Highlands and Iſlands, for ſuppreſſing Popery and ſuperſtition, and for promoting the knowledge of true religion, and carrying on a reformation in theſe parts, and give aſſiſtance and concurrence therein; and, if need be, to apply to the Government for a proper remedy and ſpeedy redreſs. And the ſaid Commiſſioners are hereby ſtrictly prohibited and diſcharged to meddle in any other matters than what are committed and referred to them, as above mentioned: And, in all their actings, they are to proceed according to the acts and conſtitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the prejudice of the ſame; declaring, that, in and for all their actings, they ſhall be accountable to, and cenſurable by, the next General Aſſembly, as they ſhall ſee cauſe. And the General Aſſembly appoints the ſaid Commiſſioners particularly to obſerve the acts of the General Aſſemblies

blies One thouſand ſeven hundred and twelve, and One thouſand ſeven hundred and nineteen, reſpecting the application of the public money; which two acts are printed among the acts of Aſſembly One thouſand ſeven hundred and ſixty-one. And this Commiſſion is to continue and endure until another Commiſſion be appointed; and members are required to attend the diets of the ſaid Commiſſion; and abſents therefrom are ordered to be noticed, according to the 17th act of the General Aſſembly held in the year One thouſand ſeven hundred and ſix. And for the better ſecuring of a quorum, and attendance of members on the Commiſſion, the General Aſſembly prohibits the Preſbytery of Edinburgh, or any other Preſbytery within twelve miles thereof, to meet on any of the days or weeks appointed for the meeting of this Commiſſion; and ſuch of the members of theſe Preſbyteries as are on the Commiſſion, are required, all of them, to give attendance on the diets thereof; and the Preſbyteries at a greater diſtance, who have four or more members on the Commiſſion, are to take care, that at leaſt two of them attend each diet of the ſame: And the General Aſſembly appoint their Commiſſion, at their firſt meeting, to diſcuſs as many of the cauſes and queſtions relative to the ſettlement of vacant churches, which are or ſhall be referred to them by the Aſſembly, as they can overtake. And it is further provided, that when any Preſbytery or Synod of this Church ſhall decline to comply with the ſentence of the Commiſſion, or to give the ſame a full execution, in that caſe the Commiſſion is hereby prohibited to execute the ſame, by appointing any ſuch correſpondent meeting, as has been ſome time the practice, but ſhall allow the ſame to lie over to the enſuing Aſſembly, to which ſuch Preſbyteries or Synods ſhall be anſwerable for ſuch their conduct, and are hereby appointed to ſend up with their Commiſſioners their reaſons for the ſame. And that in paſſing their ſentences, and in ordering the execution of the ſame, they ſtrictly obſerve the 12th act of the Aſſembly One thouſand ſeven hundred and thirty-ſix.

X.

COMMISSION to ſome Miniſters and Ruling Elders, for the Reformation of the Highlands and Iſlands of Scotland, and for managing his Majeſty's Royal Bounty for that End.

Edinburgh, June 1. 1799. *Seſſ.* 9.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY did, and hereby do, nominate and appoint the Reverend Dr WILLIAM MOODIE, one of the Miniſters of the City, and Profeſſor of Hebrew in the Univerſity, of Edinburgh, their Moderator, all the Miniſters who are members of the Preſbytery of Edinburgh, Mr Alexander Angus, Mr George Cruickſhank, Mr Patrick Grant, Mr William Gordon, Mr David Milne, Mr Hugh Calder, Mr Alexander Fraſer, Mr Robert Arthur, Mr Alexander Munro, Mr Daniel Roſe, Mr James Dallas, Mr Patrick Grant, Mr Donald Mackinnon, Dr John Macleod, Mr Colin Maciver, Mr James Dingwall, Mr William Smith, Mr James Watſon, Mr John Malcolm, Mr William Grant, Mr James Sands, Mr James Rhynd, Mr John Gordon, Dr William Dalglieſh, Dr Alexander Carlyle, Mr George Goldie, Mr Alexander Davidſon, Mr William Simpſon, Dr Walter Anderſon, Mr Robert Turnbull, Mr William Brown, Mr William Shiels, Mr Charles Paton, Mr John Morgan, Mr John Ruſſell, Mr William Sibbald, Mr James Wilſon, Dr David Lamont, Mr Stephen Young, Dr William Ritchie, Mr Robert Anderſon, Mr John Scott, Dr William Taylor, Mr David Macgibbon, Mr Archibald Maclea, Mr William Fraſer, Dr Joſeph Macintyre, Mr Alexander Campbell, Mr Alexander Niven, Mr John Inglis, Mr Patrick Maciſaac, Mr John Campbell, Mr

David Balfour, Mr George Shaw, Dr Samuel Martin, Mr James Clerk, Dr George Hill, Mr James Stormonth, Mr James Lyon, Mr William Maule, Mr James Will, Mr Robert Hannah, Mr James Walker, Dr Gilbert Gerard, Mr George Brown, Mr Thomas Birnie, Mr Thomas Tait, Mr John Shand, Mr William Anderſon, Mr Robert Duff, Mr Alexander Humphry, Mr Macintoſh at Tain, *Miniſters*; Mr Baron Gordon, Dr Gregory Grant, The Marquis of Huntly, Mr George Cumin, Mr Robert Gordon, Mr Alexander Grant, Simon Fraſer, Eſq; Mr William Sprott, Charles Roſs, Eſq; Mr Kenneth Mackenzie, Mr Coll Macdonald, the Right Honourable Lord Macdonald, Mr Hector Macdonald Buchanan, Bailie Daniel Miller, Mr William Maclean, Sir John Sinclair, Baronet, Mr James Horne, Mr Thomas Gordon, Commiſſioner Reid, Commiſſioner Grieve, Profeſſor Dalzel, Andrew Wauchope, Eſq; Bailie George Spankie, Ephraim Lochart, Eſq; The Lord Provoſt of Edinburgh, Convener Ranken, Lord Torphichen, Mr John Meek, Mr Solicitor-General, James Montgomery, Eſq; Mr Thomas Cranſtoun, The Lord Advocate, William Law, Eſq; Sir Hew Hamilton Dalrymple, the Earl of Hadinton, Mr Mathew Sandilands, George Buchan, Eſq; Sir James Pringle, Baronet, Mr Alexander Cunningham, Mr Joſeph Norris, Mr John Peat, Mr Henry Jardine, Mr William Johnſton, Mr Hugh Corrie, Mr John Jaffrey, Mr Thomas Smith, James Fergusſon, Eſq; George Fergusſon, Eſq; David Boyle, Eſq; Archibald Campbell, Eſq; of Clathick, Profeſſor George Jardine, John Dunlop, Eſq; Mr James Davidſon, The Lord Preſident, Archibald Campbell, Eſq; John Lamont of Lamont, Eſq; Lord Bannatyne, Robert Davidſon, Eſq; William Campbell, Eſq; of Fairfield, Ranald Macdonald, Eſq; John Hagart, Eſq; Mr John Macritchie, Mr Alexander Beatſon, Bailie James Dickſon, Mr William Campbell, Lieutenant-Colonel Roger Ayton, Mr Walter Cook, Mr Thomas Weir, John Burnett, Eſq; The Procurator, Mr William Macdonald, Profeſſor Hugh Macleod, Mr William Gordon, Mr John Taylor, Mr Archibald Milne, Mr George Andrew, *Ruling Elders*; TO BE A COMMITTEE of this Aſſembly, for the reformation of the Highlands and Iſlands of Scotland, for promoting the knowledge of true religion, ſuppreſſing Popery and profaneneſs, and for managing the Royal Bounty for theſe ends, according to, and in terms of his Majeſty's grant to this Aſſembly. In proſecution of which purpoſes, the Committee are to appoint Preachers and Catechiſts, to go to ſuch places as they ſhall find, upon due information, to be the

moſt

moſt proper, according to his Majeſty's deſign, expreſſed in His warrant; and, in ſo doing, that they have particular regard to ſuch pariſhes in South Uiſt, Small Iſles, Glenco, Harris, the countries of Moidart, Glengary, and Lochaber, and the other pariſhes of the Synods of Glenelg and Argyle, which the Committee ſhall find, by reaſon of the vaſt extent, by the prevalency of Popery and ignorance, and other unhappy circumſtances, to be in the greateſt diſtreſs: And they ſhall take care, that the perſons they employ be certified and found, upon due trial, to be properly qualified for theſe reſpective offices, of good abilities for the ſame, of a pious life and converſation; prudent, of undoubted loyalty to his Majeſty, and of competent ſkill in the principles of Divinity, and particularly in Popiſh controverſies: Such Preachers and Catechiſts being hereby appointed to be ſubject to, and under the inſpection of, the Preſbyteries of the bounds to which they are ſent, who are to take care that the orders of the Committee be duly obſerved by them. And the Preachers are alſo appointed to catechiſe, and both they and the Catechiſts to inſtruct the people from houſe to houſe, and to viſit the ſick; and, in all their labour among the people, to be careful to teach them the principles and duties of the true Chriſtian Proteſtant religion, and the obligations they are under to duty and loyalty to our Sovereign King George, and obedience to the laws: And the Committee are empowered to give them ſuch inſtructions, as to their work and behaviour, as they ſhall judge meet; which inſtructions the Preachers and Catechiſts are hereby ordered to obey. The General Aſſembly do further appoint the ſaid Committee to have a particular regard, in their proceedings, to the regulations agreed upon by the Committee of the Aſſembly for managing the Royal Bounty, on the 30th of September 1730, approved by frequent Aſſemblies; and to take care that Preſbyteries, and others concerned, obſerve the ſame, which they are hereby ordered to do: Particularly, the Aſſembly ordains the ſeveral Preſbyteries to inſert, in their regiſters, the Committee's appointments of the deſignations, ſalaries, and ſtations, of the ſeveral Miſſionaries, and to have an exact regard thereto, in all the letters they ſhall write about the ſaid Miſſionaries, and in giving of certificates to them; and to direct all their letters, concerning Miſſionaries in their bounds, only to the Moderator of the Committee; which letters ſhall be ſigned, at the appointment of the Preſbytery, by the Moderator

or

or Clerk thereof: And the Aſſembly does diſcharge any payment to be made of the ſalaries of the Miſſionaries, except upon receipts from the Miſſionaries themſelves, and upon certificates from the Preſbyteries, bearing, that they have ſerved for the time mentioned in the receipts; and that every Catechiſt, who receives a ſalary from the Royal Bounty, on condition that the pariſhioners, or gentlemen of the diſtrict, ſhall pay a certain ſum in aid of ſuch ſalary, ſhall inſert, in the body of his receipt to the Caſhier, a declaration, that he has received the particular ſum ſpecified; and that the atteſtation of the Preſbytery ſhall, in like manner, bear, that the Catechiſt has received the ſtipulated ſum which the Committee make the condition of his appointment; it being underſtood by this reſolution, that the ſeveral ſtations, with regard to which ſuch conditions were originally made by the Committee, when no ſuch declaration of the Catechiſt, or atteſtation of the Preſbytery, as is now propoſed, is received by the Caſhier, ſhall be afterwards ſuppreſſed by the Committee, though the Catechiſt ſhall, notwithſtanding, receive the ſalary for the time he is certified to have performed his duty: That a journal of the itinerant's labours in the miniſtry, of the miſſion committed to him, be written on the back of the Preſbytery's certificate, and ſigned by him, as the ground on which the Preſbytery have granted him ſaid certificate. The General Aſſembly do alſo empower the ſaid Committee to apply, for the purpoſes above mentioned, what may remain of the laſt year's Royal Bounty not diſpoſed of, by reaſon of any of the Miſſionaries not fulfilling the appointments laid upon them; and that they are to keep a regiſter of their proceedings, and likewiſe diſtinct books of accounts, how the foreſaid money is beſtowed, which ſhall be patent to any concerned, who pleaſe to inſpect the ſame. Of the perſons above named, as Members of this Committee, five are declared to be a quorum, whereof three are to be Miniſters. But it is hereby appointed, That at the quarterly meeting of the Committee, in which the ſcheme or eſtabliſhment of Miſſionaries for the enſuing year is to be approved and determined, not leſs than fourteen ſhall be the quorum, whereof nine ſhall be Miniſters: and the ſaid Committee are appointed to have their firſt general meeting at Edinburgh, the firſt lawful day after the adjournment of the firſt of the ſtated diets of the Commiſſion of the General Aſſembly; their ſecond meeting (which is for fixing the annual ſcheme)

upon

upon the ſecond Thurſday of July, with power to thoſe Members who ſhall then be preſent, to adjourn; and their other two general meetings the firſt lawful days after the ſtated meetings of the Commiſſion of the General Aſſembly, in November and March, within the Aſſembly ayle, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, except that day ſhall fall to be Saturday, and then the meeting ſhall be upon Monday next thereafter, at the ſaid hour; with power to the ſaid Committee to adjourn themſelves to ſuch times and places as they ſhall find moſt needful and convenient: And they are to keep a correſpondence with the Commiſſion of the General Aſſembly, and the Society for Propagating Chriſtian Knowledge, and their Committee of Directors, and to take their advice and aſſiſtance; and alſo to correſpond with the Synods and Preſbyteries concerned. They are likewiſe inſtructed and empowered, as they ſhall ſee cauſe, to apply to the Government, or any Magiſtrate, for aſſiſtance and ſupport in carrying on the deſign of the Commiſſion now given to them. And the General Aſſembly do appoint Mr William Robertſon, Advocate, Procurator for the Church, and Receiver of the foreſaid Royal Bounty, to pay out the ſame, as he ſhall be directed and ordered by the foreſaid Committee, and according to their rules. And the ſaid Committee are appointed to examine the accounts of the diſtribution of the Royal Bounty, and lay the ſame before the Lords Commiſſioners of His Majeſty's Treaſury, or the Barons of His Majeſty's Court of Exchequer, and to report their diligence to the General Aſſembly, to whom they are to be accountable. And it is agreed, That no perſon once employed and inſert in the ſcheme, ſhall be ſtruck out thereof for that year, but by the quorum of at leaſt fourteen, whereof nine to be Miniſters; and in caſe any complaint ſhall be made againſt any of them on the ſcheme, it ſhall not be determined the firſt ordinary meeting that the ſame is offered, but it ſhall lie on the table till another meeting; and in the mean time, the perſon complained of, and the Preſbytery of the bounds wherein he officiates, ſhall be acquainted of ſuch complaint, and thoſe concerned be required to ſend to the ſaid Committee a juſt account of the matter againſt the next meeting. And it is further appointed, That after the yearly ſcheme of Miſſionaries on the Royal Bounty is ſettled in manner above directed, and notice thereof given by letters to the Preſbyteries concerned, ſuch Preſbyteries ſhall ſend up to the ſaid Committee

their anſwer to theſe letters, at fartheſt, with their Commiſſioners to the General Aſſembly, if the ſame be not done ſooner; and that the Committee, at their firſt meeting after the General Aſſembly, ſhall endeavour to complete the next year's ſcheme themſelves; and if they cannot complete it, they ſhall name a ſub-committee of their number for that purpoſe, who are to lay their draught thereof before a ſubſequent meeting, which is appointed to meet as ſoon after the riſing of the Aſſembly as poſſible: And empowered the Committee, at their firſt meeting, to reject any petition for a new ſtation, in caſe they ſhall find ſufficient objections againſt it; and that the ſaid Committee, in making up the ſcheme of Miſſionaries, &c. do not exceed the ſum in the grant.

XI.

Edinburgh, June 3. 1799. *Seſſ. ult.*

PASTORAL ADMONITION, addreſſed by the GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, met at Edinburgh, May 23. 1799, to all the PEOPLE under their Charge.

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN,

YOU well know that it has been propheſied in Scripture, that *in the laſt days perilous times were to come, when many falſe teachers ſhould ariſe, ſcoffers walking after their own luſts, and when men ſhould turn away their ears from the truth.* The prophecy has been brought to our recollection by the ſubjects, which, in the courſe of the buſineſs of this Aſſembly, have come under our review. We have contemplated, with devout reverence, events in the conduct of the Divine Government, which appear to us to be a fulfilment of this prophecy; and, from a ſenſe of the dangers to which you are expoſed by thoſe events, we feel ourſelves bound in duty, and engaged by affection, to iſſue this fatherly admonition, which your Miniſters, in the name and by authority of the General Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland, will read to you from their Pulpits.

It is too well known, that, in a neighbouring Country, an evil and pernicious ſpirit has ariſen, which, like a peſtilential vapour, has

has ſpread its malignant influence over ſeveral ſurrounding States. The unhappy Nation of the French, not content with having firſt ſlaughtered their Sovereign, and overturned their own Government; not content with endeavouring, by acts of violence, to ſubvert the eſtabliſhed Governments of other Nations, and to introduce amongſt them their own principles of rebellion and anarchy; have alſo impiouſly attempted to wage open war againſt the Chriſtian faith. They have ſhut up their Churches, ſtudied to aboliſh the memory of the LORD's day, declared the belief of a future ſtate to be an empty dream; and by their emiſſaries, and their numerous publications, have ſought to ſpread every where abroad their atheiſtical tenets, and to render every Nation diſſatisfied with their own Rulers, and with their own Governments, both eccleſiaſtical and civil.

Hence has ariſen that variety of books and pamphlets, containing the moſt impious opinions, and propagating the ſpirit of ſedition and rebellion, which have been diſſeminated with much care amongſt all ranks of men in this land. While ſuch doctrines are abroad, and many, through ignorance or inadvertence, are in hazard of being poiſoned by them, the ſolicitude which we entertain for your welfare in time and in eternity, has led us to warn you againſt the ſeduction of falſe Teachers. Now is the time, Dear Brethren, to ſhew that you are not aſhamed of your Bleſſed SAVIOUR, and of his words; *earneſtly to contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the Saints;* and to reject with contempt and indignation that falſe philoſophy, pregnant with lies, which has wrought ſo much miſchief amongſt mankind. Liſten not to any inſinuations from thoſe who ſeek to pervert you from the ſound and good principles you early imbibed; and beware particularly that they inſtil not into your minds ſentiments of diſaffection to that wiſe and mild Government under which you live. Remember, with gratitude, that goodneſs of the ALMIGHTY, which, when ſo many other Nations have been diſtracted with civil commotions, and laid waſte by hoſtile devaſtations, has preſerved you in tranquillity and peace; *every man under his own vine, and his own fig-tree,* enjoying with ſafety the fruit of his labours, under the protection of laws, which afford equal juſtice to the poor and to the rich. Inſtead of being captivated by that empty ſound of Liberty, which has proved to be only another name for anarchy or tyranny, let zeal for true Religion ever remain in your minds, united with attachment to our happy Conſtitution, and with Loyalty to that Gracious Sovereign with whom Providence has bleſſed us.

It is much to be lamented, that, while we are aſſaulted by falſe principles imported to us from abroad, there ſhould of late have ariſen among ourſelves a ſet of men, whoſe proceedings threaten no ſmall diſorder to the country. We mean thoſe, who, aſſuming the name of Miſſionaries from what they call the Society for Propagating the Goſpel at Home, as if they had ſome ſpecial commiſſion from Heaven, are at preſent going through the land: not confining themſelves to particular ſtations, but acting as univerſal Itinerant Teachers, and as ſuperintendants of thoſe who are eſtabliſhed the Teachers of Religion by the Church: intruding themſelves into their pariſhes without any call;

call: erecting in ſeveral places Sunday ſchools without any countenance from the Preſbytery of the bounds, the Miniſter or Heritors of the Pariſh: committing in thoſe Schools the religious inſtruction of youth to ignorant perſons altogether unfit for ſuch an important charge, who preſume not only to catechiſe, but alſo to expound the Scriptures; or to perſons notoriouſly diſaffected to the Civil Conſtitution of the country: and connecting thoſe ſchools with certain ſecret meetings, in which, as we are informed, every perſon is bound not to ſpread abroad any thing that is ſaid or done in the meeting, to the prejudice of any of the members; into which no perſon is admitted without the conſent of the whole of the members; and which keep a correſpondence with other ſocieties in the neighbourhood. You ſee the men, who by themſelves, or their aſſociates, conduct thoſe Sunday ſchools and ſecret meetings, bringing together aſſemblies of people in the fields, or in places not intended for public worſhip; where, pouring forth their looſe harangues, they frequently take the liberty of cenſuring the doctrine, or the character of the Miniſter of the pariſh; ſtudying to alienate the affections of the people from their own Paſtors; and engaging them to join this new Sect, as if they alone were poſſeſſed of ſome ſecret and novel method of bringing men to heaven.

Hitherto, Brethren, you have regarded a regular ſtanding Miniſtry as a divine inſtitution. You have been taught, that the Lord Jesus Christ himſelf did not act in a public character, without producing and proving a heavenly commiſſion; that the extraordinary endowments which he conferred upon his Apoſtles, were their warrant for appearing as the Preachers of his Religion; and that the evident connection between thoſe endowments and the appointment of the firſt Miniſters of the Word, is a direction to Chriſtians in all ſucceeding ages, to conſider the office of Public Teachers as a Divine Ordinance, the exerciſe of which requires talents correſponding to the importance and difficulty of the charge. You know that the Church of Scotland, in conformity to theſe principles, preſcribes a long courſe of education to thoſe who are trained for the holy Miniſtry; and, in order to prevent the miſapplication of literary ſtudies and talents, requires from all whom ſhe licenſes to preach the Goſpel, the moſt ſolemn engagements, that they will adhere to the Standards which ſhe has publiſhed of her Doctrine, Worſhip, Diſcipline, and Government. But all this care and ſolicitude concerning the Miniſtry of the Word, which we and our fathers learned from Scripture, is now ridiculed as unneceſſary. The men who aſſume the character of Miſſionaries, declare that Every Man has a right to preach the Goſpel; and they are now traverſing the whole Country as Evangeliſts, without any ſort of authority, without giving any public pledge for the ſoundneſs of their Faith, or the correctneſs of their Morals, and without thoſe advantages of regular education, and of preparatory knowledge, which, under every form of a Chriſtian Church, ever ſince the age of miraculous gifts, have been held as indiſpenſably neceſſary for the uſeful and ſucceſsful diſcharge of a Goſpel Miniſtry.

We wiſh to judge charitably of all men. We are willing to hope, that amongſt theſe Miſſionaries, there are ſeveral worthy, well-

well-meaning people, who have been led aſtray by men more artful and deſigning than themſelves. But it is impoſſible not to perceive, that the whole ſcheme, and the manner in which it is conducted, diſcover more of a ſpirit of ambition and vanity, and of a deſire to claim a lordly dominion over your faith, than of the ſpirit of the Goſpel, which is a meek, an humble, and a peaceable ſpirit, and a ſpirit of order, not of confuſion: And whatever may be the intentions of ſome who have engaged in this ſcheme, the manifeſt tendency of their proceedings, is to foſter the violence of a blind intemperate zeal; to unſettle the minds of many; to throw their principles looſe, by diſtracting them with novelties, and to make them become like *clouds without water, carried about of winds.*

You may have been led by curioſity, to liſten for a little to what theſe ſtrange and ſelf-authoriſed Teachers of Religion have to ſay. But that any of you will give them laſting countenance, or adhere to them as guides, forſaking, upon that account, the Eſtabliſhed Church, in whoſe principles you were baptiſed, and under whoſe wings you have been bred up, we are perſuaded better things of you, than to believe or ſuſpect. For, is it to be imagined, that any well-diſpoſed and ſober-minded Chriſtians, could think of deſerting thoſe houſes of GOD, in which their fathers have ſo often worſhipped, and which have ſo often reſounded with their own ſongs of praiſe, in order to follow up and down a ſect of men, whom you know not whence they be? Is not the Church of Scotland, which has been diſtinguiſhed by the teſtimony of many generations, for the purity of its doctrines, and the character of its Miniſters, worthy of your moſt ſteady and zealous attachment; that Church, in defence of which your forefathers fought and bled, and which has produced ſo many Confeſſors and Martyrs in the cauſe of our common Faith? Much reaſon there is to ſuſpect, that thoſe who openly profeſs their enmity to our Eccleſiaſtical Eſtabliſhment, are no friends to our Civil Conſtitution; and that the name of Liberty is abuſed by them, as it has been by others, into a cover for ſecret Democracy and Anarchy. Perſevere, therefore, in thoſe principles in which you have been bred, and which you have hitherto honourably manifeſted. Beware, beloved Brethren, of all who would ſhake your attachment to the Eſtabliſhed Church of Scotland. By diligently improving thoſe ſtated means of inſtruction which ſhe provides for you, and always conſulting the ſacred Scriptures as your ſupreme rule, the path of duty will be clearly pointed out to you. But thoſe, who *heap to themſelves teachers, having itching ears*, thoſe who are continually ſeeking new guides, wander into many unknown paths, which lead them into dangerous ſnares and errors.

In theſe giddy times, when the love of innovation ſo much prevails, and when the ſpirit of innovation has broken forth in ſo many forms; liſten *to the words of truth and ſoberneſs. WE ſpeak as to wiſe men; judge ye what we ſay.* Recollect the counſels and the practice of your fathers: Recollect your own experience of inſtruction and edification, under a well educated and regularly ordained Miniſtry. *Stand, Brethren, in the ways, and ſee, and aſk for the old paths, where is the good way, and*

walk therein, and ye ſhall find reſt for your ſouls: And may GOD enlighten and fortify your minds by his good Spirit, and, amidſt all dangers, enable you to *behave yourſelves wiſely in a perfect way!*

Subſcribed, in name of the Aſſembly, by

WILLIAM MOODIE, D. D. Moderator.

XII.

Report concerning Vagrant Teachers and Sunday Schools.

Edinburgh, Monday, June 3. 1799. *Seſſ. ult.*

The General Aſſembly, upon conſidering that part of an Overture from the Synod of Aberdeen, which reſpects Vagrant Teachers and Sunday Schools, having directed a Committee of their number, to inquire into the exiſting Laws, which place Schoolmaſters and Teachers of Youth under the inſpection and controul of the Eſtabliſhed Church; and to report to the Aſſembly a ſtatement of thoſe Laws, together with their Opinion concerning the moſt effectual Method of preventing unqualified perſons from being employed in the important office of inſtructing Youth: The Committee accordingly gave in their Report this day; and the ſame being read and conſidered, was unanimouſly approved of, and adopted by the Aſſembly;—of which Report the tenor follows:

YOUR Committee do not judge it neceſſary to enter into a minute detail of the more ancient Laws, with reſpect to the Power of the Church over all Schools and Teachers of Youth. The General Aſſembly of this Church, as early as the year 1565, claimed it as their right, That none ſhould be permitted to teach publicly, or privately, but ſuch as were tried by the Superintendants, or Viſitors of the Kirk, and found qualified. This claim was confirmed by an act of Parliament, which was paſſed in the year 1567, in the following words: "For-

"aſmeikleas,

" aſmeikleas, be all laws and conſtitutionis, it is pro-
" vided, That the Zouth be brocht up and inſtructed in
" the fear of GOD, and gude manneris; and gif it be
" utherwiſe, it is tinſel baith of their bodies and ſaules,
" gif GOD's Word be not ruted in them: Quheirfore,
" our Soveraign Lorde, with advice of my Lorde Re-
" gent, and the Three Eſtates of this preſent Parlia-
" ment, has ſtatute and ordained, That all Schules to
" Burgh and Land, and all Univerſities and Colledges,
" be reformed; and that nane be permitted nor admit-
" ted to have charge and cure thereof in time coming,
" nor to inſtruct the Zouth privatelie or openlie, bot
" ſic as ſall be tryed be the ſuperintendentes or viſitouris
" of the Kirk."

After the abolition of the office of Superintendant, in the General Aſſembly, held in the month of April 1581, certain articles were remitted by the Synod of Lothian to that General Aſſembly; the fifth of which is, " That " the Trial and Admiſſion of all Maſters of Schools be " *now* committed to the Preſbyteries." The act 1565, already noticed, is ratified and confirmed by the act 1581; and this act 1581, is again confirmed by the act 1592, which is the Great Charter of the Church, and which is confirmed by the act of Security 1707, c. 6. and thereby declared to be an eſſential and fundamental article in the Treaty of Union, into which it is accordingly engroſſed; ſo that the ſuperintending power of the Church, over all Schoolmaſters and Teachers of Youth, is clearly eſtabliſhed by the moſt ſolemn acts of the Legiſlature, and even by the Treaty of Union itſelf.

It is well known that the Church has been in the conſtant exerciſe of thoſe powers, by viſiting and examining Schools, and taking cognizance of the ſufficiency and qualifications of Teachers. See the Acts of Aſſembly 1638, 1642, 1649, 1699.

When Epiſcopacy was re-eſtabliſhed, on the Reſtoration of Charles II. an Act was paſſed, 1662, c. 4. by which it is, *inter alia*, enacted, " That none be permitted, " hereafter, to preach in public, or in families, within " any dioceſe, or to teach any public School, or to be " Pedagogues to the Children of perſons of quality, " without the licence of the Ordinary of the dioceſe."

Soon

Soon after the Revolution, the act 1693, c. 22. was paſſed, which declares: "That all Schoolmaſters, and "Teachers of Youth in ſchools, are, and ſhall be lyable "to the tryal, judgment and cenſure of the Preſby-"teries of the bounds, for their ſufficiency, qualifica-"tions and deportment in the ſaid office." This act is declaratory of a right, which conſtitutionally belongs to the Church; and accordingly, the various Preſbyteries of the Church have been in uſe of exerciſing that power, not merely with regard to Parochial Schoolmaſters, but to Teachers of Youth of all denominations and deſcrip-tions. And the General Aſſembly 1700, appoints all Preſbyteries to take ſpecial, particular and exact notice of *all* Schoolmaſters, Chaplains, Governors and Peda-gogues of Youth, within their reſpective bounds.

By the Act 1707, c. 6. which is declared a fundamen-tal and eſſential condition of the Union, it is provided, "That no Profeſſors, &c. or others bearing office in *any* "Univerſity *or ſchool* within Scotland, be capable or be "admitted, or allowed to continue in the exerciſe of "their functions, but ſuch as ſhall own and acknowledge "the Civil Government, and ſhall ſubſcribe the Con-"feſſion of Faith, and that they will conform themſelves "to the Worſhip in uſe in this Church; and ſubmit them-"ſelves to the Government and Diſcipline thereof, and "never endeavour the prejudice or ſubverſion of the "ſame, and that before the reſpective Preſbyteries of "their bounds, by whatſoever Gift, Preſentation or Pro-"viſion they may be thereto provided."

By the Act 19th Geo. II. c. 39. ſect. 21. it is enacted, "That it ſhall not be lawful for any perſon in Scotland "to keep a private School, or to officiate as Maſter or "Teacher in any School, until the ſituation and deſcrip-"tion of ſuch School is regiſtered, together with a Cer-"tificate of the Teacher being properly qualified ac-"cording to Law, by taking the Oaths to Government; "and any perſon who acts without ſuch Regiſter and "Certificate, ſhall, for the firſt offence ſuffer ſix months "impriſonment; and for any ſubſequent offence, upon "the conviction before the Court of Juſticiary or Cir-"cuit, ſhall be tranſported for life." Severe penalties are alſo impoſed upon any Parent or Guardian, &c. who ſhall employ any ſuch unqualified Teacher: The ſame Act alſo requires, That Chaplains in Families, and Go-

vernors

vernors, Tutors and Teachers of Children, ſhall take the Oaths to Government; and Sheriffs, &c. are required from time to time, to make diligent inquiry concerning any offences that ſhall be committed againſt this Act, and to cauſe the ſame to be proſecuted, for the firſt offence, before themſelves; and in caſe of any ſubſequent offence, to give notice of the ſame to his Majeſty's Advocate, who is required to proſecute the ſame before the Court of Juſticiary, or Circuit Courts.

Schools in the Univerſities, and in Royal Burghs, are excepted; alſo Parochial Schools, and thoſe eſtabliſhed by the Society for Propagating Chriſtian Knowledge, and by the General Aſſembly, or Committees thereof.

To this Statement of the Laws, the Committee beg leave to ſubjoin their opinion:—That the General Aſſembly ſhall enjoin all Preſbyteries of this Church to be diligent in exerciſing thoſe powers which the Laws of the Land, and of the Church, have committed to them, with reſpect to the education of Youth within their bounds, and particularly to call before them all Teachers of Youth, whether in Parochial Schools, or Schools of another deſcription, and to take trial of their ſufficiency and qualifications in thoſe branches of education which they profeſs to teach. And that the Aſſembly ſhall recommend to the Procurator of the Church to give his advice and aſſiſtance to all Preſbyteries of the Church relative to this matter; and authoriſe him to carry on, at the Public Expence, ſuch proceſſes as may appear to be neceſſary for enforcing the ſentences, or aſcertaining the powers, of the Judicatories of the Church relative to Schools; and that the Aſſembly ſhall requeſt his Majeſty's Advocate and Solicitor-General to concur with the Procurator, in ſupporting the juriſdiction of the Church. And farther, That the General Aſſembly ſhall enjoin all the Preſbyteries of this Church, to report to the next Aſſembly a liſt of all the Schools within their bounds, ſpecifying what is taught in each School; whether the Schools be held on the LORD's day, or on other days of the week; in what way the Schoolmaſters are ſupported or maintained; whether they act for themſelves, or are employed by or under the direction of others; what number of Scholars attend each School at the time of making the Report; and in general, whatever elſe ſhall appear to the Preſbytery of importance reſpecting the Schools within their bounds.

XIII.

Act appointing the Diet of the next General Assembly.

Edinburgh, 3d June 1799. *Sess. ult.*

THE next GENERAL ASSEMBLY of this National Church is appointed to be held within the New Church Ayle of Edinburgh, on Thurſday the 22d day of May 1800.

Extracted from the Records of the General Aſſembly by

ANDREW DALZEL, *Cl. Eccl. Scot.*

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ABRIDG-

ABRIDGMENT

OF THE

ACTINGS and PROCEEDINGS of the GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the CHURCH of SCOTLAND, held at Edinburgh in the Year 1799, which are not printed at full length.

Thurſday, May 23. 1799. *Seſſ.* 1.

AFTER Sermon by the Reverend Dr WILLIAM TAYLOR, Miniſter of the High Church of Glaſgow, Moderator of the laſt General Aſſembly, the Miniſters and Ruling Elders convened in the Aſſembly-houſe in the uſual manner: And after Prayer by the ſaid Dr William Taylor, the Reverend Dr WILLIAM MOODIE, one of the Miniſters of the City, and Profeſſor of Hebrew in the Univerſity, of Edinburgh, being unanimouſly choſen Moderator, he, at the Aſſembly's deſire, took the chair.

The General Aſſembly being thus conſtituted, the KING's Commiſſion to the Right Honourable DAVID, Earl of LEVEN and MELVILL, to repreſent his Majeſty's Royal Perſon, was read, and ordered to be recorded. See Printed Acts, No. I.

The KING's moſt gracious Letter to this Aſſembly, read, and ordered to be recorded. And No. II.

The COMMISSIONER's ſpeech at opening the Aſſembly, and the MODERATOR's ſpeech in return thereto.

His MAJESTY's Royal Warrant for L. 1000 Sterling, for Reformation of the Highlands, &c. was given in to the Aſſembly, ordered to be recorded, and thereafter delivered to the Procurator.

A Committee named for anſwering the King's moſt gracious Letter.

An humble and loyal Addreſs to His Majeſty, on the preſent ſituation of Public Affairs, unanimouſly agreed to, and the ſame Committee appointed to prepare a Draught thereof.

A Committee named for reviſing the Commiſſions to the Members of this Aſſembly, cenſuring abſents from the diets thereof, naming Miniſters to Preach before his Grace the Commiſſioner, and receiving Liſts of Probationers in the ſeveral Preſbyteries, in order to their being recorded.

A Committee for Overtures named.
A Committee for Bills, References and Appeals named.
Adjournment.

Friday, May 24. 1799. *Seſſ.* 2.

Sederunt.
New Commiſſions produced.
A Diet ſpent in Prayer.
Act VII. of the Aſſembly 1718, for the better diſpatch of the buſineſs of the Aſſembly, read, and the obſervation thereof enjoined.
Miniſters named to Preach before his Grace the Commiſſioner.
The Committee for reviſing Commiſſions appointed to meet.
The Committees for Overtures and Bills appointed to meet.
Adjournment.

Saturday, May 25. 1799. *Seſſ.* 3.

Sederunt.
A meſſage to the Aſſembly from the Lord High Commiſſioner, was delivered by the Moderator, mentioning his Grace's indiſpoſition, and regreting that he could not appear this day in the Aſſembly.
New Commiſſions produced.
Report of the Committee for Overtures given in and read.
See Printed Acts, No. III. The draught of the Anſwer to the King's moſt gracious Letter to this Aſſembly being brought in and approved, the Moderator and Clerk were appointed to wait on the Lord Commiſſioner, and to requeſt his Grace, in name of the Aſſembly, to tranſmit the ſaid Anſwer to his Majeſty.
No. IV. The draught of an Addreſs to his Majeſty on the preſent ſituation of Public Affairs, was brought in, and approved; and the Moderator and Clerk were appointed to requeſt his Grace the Lord Commiſſioner, in name of the Aſſembly, to tranſmit ſaid Addreſs to his Majeſty, along with the Anſwer to his Majeſty's Letter.
The Roll of Cauſes tranſmitted by the Committee of Bills, was called for, produced and read.
Cauſes fixed for Monday.
The Aſſembly agreed to conſider on Wedneſday the Complaint and Appeal of ſome Members of the Preſbytery of Stirling againſt a Sentence of the ſaid Preſbytery, accepting of the reſignation of Mr William Innes, Miniſter of the Second Charge of Stirling; and in the mean time ordained, that the ſaid Mr William Innes be ſummoned to appear before the Aſſembly upon Wedneſday next at 11 o'clock forenoon, in the New Church Ayle, in order to anſwer for his conduct, in giving up his Miniſterial charge at Stirling; and appointed their Clerk to iſſue out an order to one of their officers for this purpoſe, who ſhall deliver the ſummons to the ſaid Mr William Innes perſonally, or at his dwelling-houſe, and ſhall return a written execution thereon.

A Committee named to reviſe the Actings and Proceedings of the Commiſſion of laſt General Aſſembly. And,

A Committee named to reviſe the Actings and Proceedings of the Committee appointed by laſt Aſſembly, for managing the Royal Bounty for Reformation of the Highlands and Iſlands.

A Committee named to audite the Accounts of the Procurator and Agent for the Church, and other public accounts, conſider the ſtate of the Church's public money, and prepare Overtures about the ſame.

The Committee for Overtures was appointed to meet this evening, and empowered to receive from the ſeveral Members any inſtructions given to them by the reſpective Synods or Preſbyteries, claſs the matters therein contained, and prepare Overtures thereon to the Aſſembly; and to receive and conſider any accounts that ſhall be given them of the ſtate of the Church in the North Highlands, particularly concerning the growth of Popery and ſuperſtition, and prepare Overtures for preventing and ſuppreſſing thereof.

The Committee for Bills was appointed to meet.

Adjournment.

Monday, May 27. 1799. *Seſſ.* 4.

Sederunt.

The Moderator announced from the chair, that the Lord High Commiſſioner, though greatly better, was not yet ſufficiently recovered to appear this day in the Aſſembly.

New Commiſſions produced.

Report of the Committee for Overtures given in and read.

It was objected to the Commiſſion from the Burgh of Renfrew, That it wants the atteſtations of both the Kirk-ſeſſion, and Preſbytery. The Aſſembly approved of the Report of the Committee, and ſuſtained the objection.

The ſeveral Overtures read, and ordered to lie on the table.

The Report of the Committee for Bills given in and read.

Cauſes fixed for different diets.

Synod Books called for.

A Complaint and Appeal by Mr Daniel Roſe, Miniſter of Dingwall, againſt Mr James Dallas, Miniſter of Contin, heard: A motion was made and ſeconded, That the Aſſembly affirm that part of the Sentence of the Synod of Roſs, which reverſes the judgment of the Preſbytery of Dingwall inflicting a Rebuke upon Mr Dallas: Reverſe that part of the ſaid Sentence of the Synod, which reverſes the part of the judgment of the Preſbytery, appointing him to be ready to report his exact obſervance of the injunctions laid on him to the next Meeting of the Preſbytery: Approve of the conduct of the Preſbytery of Dingwall in the inſtructions which they gave upon the 5th of December laſt to the kirk-ſeſſion of Contin, with reſpect to judicially interrogating Thomas Stewart and John Maciver, inhabitants of the pariſh of Contin, whether they had given tokens in an irregular manner to Donald Munro, John Reid,

Reid, Hector Mackenzie, and Isobel Mackay, inhabitants of the Parish of Dingwall: Remit to the Presbytery of Dingwall to proceed in this matter as they judge for edification: And further, That the Assembly appoint their Clerk to transmit an extract of this Sentence to the Moderator of the Synod of Ross, with an injunction to insert the same into the record of the Synod. And another motion was made and seconded, That the Assembly affirm the Sentence of the Synod of Ross, in so far as relates to the censure of rebuking Mr Dallas, and remit the cause to the Kirk-session of Contin to proceed in the investigation of the conduct of Thomas Stewart and John Maciver, according to the rules of the Church. The Assembly agreed to this state of the vote *first* or *second* motion: And the Roll being called and votes marked, it carried *first* motion. The Assembly therefore adopted the first motion as their judgment.

The consideration of the Chapel of Ease at New Pitsligo delayed till to-morrow, after the Overtures.

The Committees for Overtures and Bills appointed to meet.

Adjournment.

Tuesday, May 28. 1799. *Sess.* 5.

Sederunt.

The Moderator from the chair informed the Assembly, That the Lord High Commissioner continues to recover from his indisposition, and hopes soon to appear in person in the Assembly.

A New Commission produced.

Report of the Committee for Overtures given in, and read.

Report of the Committee for Bills given in, and read.

Diets fixed for hearing causes.

The Assembly proceeded to consider the Overtures relating to unqualified Ministers and Preachers; and after reasoning at some length upon the subject of these Overtures, a Declaratory Act was adopted; and the Assembly ordained their Clerk to transmit a copy of the Act, separately printed, to the Moderators of all the Presbyteries of this Church, with an injunction to cause the same to be engrossed into the Records of their respective Presbyteries.

See Printed Acts, No. V.

The Assembly having considered a Petition to the Presbytery of Deer for Sir William Forbes of Pitsligo, Baronet, craving to have a Chapel of Ease erected at New Pitsligo, in the Parish of Tyrie; and being assured from the Report of the said Presbytery thereupon, that the erection of the said Chapel was agreeable to all concerned, unanimously agreed to erect the said Chapel of Ease, under certain regulations.

Adjournment.

Wednesday, May 29. 1799. *Sess.* 6.

Sederunt.

The Moderator informed the Assembly, That the Lord High Commissioner is gradually recovering from his indisposition, though

though not yet able, without danger to his health, to appear in the Aſſembly.

A New Commiſſion produced.

The Committee on Public Accounts appointed to meet.

The Aſſembly proceeded to hear a reference by the Synod of Lothian and Tweeddale, relative to the Reſignation of Mr Greville Ewing, Miniſter of Lady Glenorchy's Chapel, of his Character as a Miniſter of this Church: And having deliberated upon the ſame, and conſidering that Mr Greville Ewing's Reſignation of his Character of a Miniſter of this Church, has been accepted by the Preſbytery of Edinburgh, unanimouſly find and declare, That Mr Greville Ewing is no longer a Miniſter in this Church, and that he is incapable of receiving or accepting of a Preſentation or Call to any Pariſh or Chapel of Eaſe in this Church, without the ſpecial allowance of ſome future General Aſſembly; and the Aſſembly prohibit all the Miniſters of this Church from employing him to Preach or perform any Miniſterial offices for them, or from being employed by him, unleſs ſome future Aſſembly ſhall ſee cauſe to take off this prohibition.

The Aſſembly, agreeable to the reſolution of Saturday laſt, proceeded to hear the Complaint and Appeal of ſome Members of the Preſbytery of Stirling, againſt a Sentence of the ſaid Preſbytery, accepting of the Reſignation of Mr William Innes, as Miniſter of the Second Charge of Stirling. And the execution of citation againſt Mr Innes being called for, was produced and read, bearing, That a copy of citation had been left for the ſaid Mr Innes within his dwelling-houſe, in Stirling, in the hands of ſervants, to be given to him, as the officer could not apprehend him perſonally. Parties being heard, after reaſoning, a motion was made and ſeconded, That the Aſſembly approve of the conduct of Dr Robert Moodie and Mr Robert Knox, in bringing the Sentence of the Preſbytery of Stirling, by Complaint, under the review of the General Aſſembly: Find, That after it had been alleged by the complainers, that ſuch ſchiſmatical and diviſive practices had been purſued by Mr Innes, as, if they had been eſtabliſhed by proof, would have inferred the higheſt cenſures of the Church, it was not competent for the Preſbytery or Synod to accept, *ſimpliciter*, of his reſignation of the Second Charge of Stirling; and find, That the Preſbytery acted contrary to the act 1739, concerning Miniſters who have ſeceded from the Church, and that their conduct was highly reprehenſible; but the General Aſſembly being informed by Mr Robert Balfour, Miniſter of Glaſgow, and Mr John Campbell, Miniſter of Kippen, members of this Aſſembly, that from perſonal and confidential communications, which they repeatedly had with Mr Innes, in which they endeavoured to diſſuade him from executing his reſolution, they know, that however defective his letter of reſignation is, it was, and now is, his intention, by

that paper, to reſign his character as a Miniſter of this Church: Suſtain this information as an explanation of the letter given in by Mr Innes to the Preſbytery of Stirling; and do accordingly find, That Mr William Innes is no longer a Miniſter of this Church, and that he is not capable of receiving or accepting of a Preſentation or Call to any Pariſh or Chapel of Eaſe in this Church, without the ſpecial allowance of ſome future General Aſſembly: And the Aſſembly do hereby prohibit all the Miniſters of this Church from employing him to preach, or perform any miniſterial offices for them, or from being employed by him, unleſs ſome future Aſſembly ſhall ſee cauſe to take off this prohibition. And after further reaſoning, another motion was made and ſeconded, That the Aſſembly approve of the conduct of Dr Robert Moodie and Mr Robert Knox, in bringing the Sentence of the Preſbytery of Stirling under the review of the General Aſſembly: Reverſe the ſentence of the Preſbytery of Stirling, of which the Aſſembly diſapproves, as highly irregular and reprehenſible, in accepting, *ſimpliciter*, under the circumſtances of the caſe, of Mr Innes's reſignation of his charge as Second Miniſter of Stirling: Ordain Mr Innes to return to his charge on or before the firſt of July next; and remit to the Preſbytery of Stirling, at ſome meeting to be held in the ſaid Month of July, at which all the Miniſters are ordained to attend; and upon Mr Innes's failure ſo to do, to proceed according to the rules of the Church; and to report their procedure to the meeting of the Commiſſion of this Aſſembly in Auguſt next. The Aſſembly agreed to the following ſtate of the vote; *firſt* or *ſecond* motion; and the roll being called, and votes marked, it carried *ſecond* motion: Therefore the General Aſſembly adopted the ſecond motion as their judgment, and ordained accordingly.

The Cauſe of the Chapel of Eaſe at Elgin delayed till to-morrow.

Upon a motion, the Committee of Bills appointed to meet.

Adjournment.

Thurſday, May 30. 1799. *Seſſ.* 7.

Sederunt.

The Lord High Commiſſioner appeared this day in the Aſſembly, and in a gracious ſpeech from the throne, expreſſed his regret for his abſence from ſome preceding meetings of the Aſſembly.

To which the Moderator, in the Aſſembly's name, made a ſuitable return, and congratulated his Grace on his recovery from his late indiſpoſition.

New Commiſſions produced.

The Report of the Committee of Bills given in and read.

The Public Accounts produced, and ordered to lie on the table.

Diets fixed for conſidering Overtures.

Reference

Reference from the Preſbytery of Elgin, reſpecting a Chapel of Eaſe in the Burgh of Elgin, heard. The Aſſembly remitted to the Preſbytery of Elgin the petition preſented to them on the 30th of April 1799, that the Preſbytery may proceed therein at their next ordinary meeting, according to the act of Aſſembly 1798, containing regulations reſpecting the erection of Chapels of Eaſe: And the Aſſembly authoriſed their Commiſſion, in Auguſt next, or any future Commiſſion, to receive any Report which the Preſbytery may make, or any Appeal that may be taken in this caſe, and to determine therein according to the rules of the Church.

An Appeal at the inſtance of Mr John Niviſon, Miniſter of Penpont, againſt a Sentence of the Preſbytery of Penpont, of 21ſt May 1799, finding a libel exhibited by the ſaid Preſbytery, againſt him, relevant, heard: The Aſſembly referred the Caſe to a ſpecial Committee, to report their opinion on Saturday.

The Committee on Public Accounts appointed to meet.

Adjournment.

Friday, May 31. 1799. *Seſſ.* 8.

Sederunt.

The Report of the Committee on New Applications given in and read.

A petition for Mr Bryce Little, Miniſter of Covington, remitted to the Procurator and Agent for the Church to give the petitioner their aſſiſtance in the proceſs therein mentioned.

A petition for Mr Alexander Fraſer, Miniſter of Toroſay, with the opinion of the Procurator, and report of the Committee thereupon, heard. The Aſſembly approved of ſaid Opinion and Report; and therefore, remitted to the Procurator and Agent for the Church, empowering them, at the public expence, to carry on any Proceſs in which the Miniſter of Toroſay may be engaged, relative to the deſignation of a glebe.

The Overtures from the Synods of Aberdeen, and Angus and Mearns, reſpecting Vagrant Teachers and Sunday Schools, and reſpecting Irreligion and Anarchy, heard. The General Aſſembly having deliberated on the ſubject of theſe Overtures; upon a motion made, unanimouſly reſolved, That a Paſtoral Admonition be addreſſed by the General Aſſembly to the People of Scotland, warning them of the danger of encouraging, or liſtening to the addreſſes of thoſe men, who, under the name of Miſſionary or Itinerant Preachers, from a Society ſtyling themſelves the Society for Propagating the Goſpel at Home, have, of late, been travelling over all the diſtricts within the bounds of this Church: And that a Committee be appointed to prepare this Admonition, and to report on Monday. That the ſame Committee be appointed to inquire into the exiſting laws which place ſchoolmaſters and teachers of youth under the inſpection and controul of the Eſtabliſhed Church, to report to the Aſſembly on Monday a

ſtatement

ſtatement of thoſe laws, together with their opinion concerning the moſt effectual method of preventing unqualified perſons from being employed in the important office of inſtructing youth.

The Petition of the Parochial Schoolmaſters read, and referred to the above Committee.

The Report of the Truſtees of the Fund eſtabliſhed by Act of Parliament, for a proviſion to Miniſters widows, &c. containing an account of their proceedings ſince laſt General Aſſembly, and a ſtate of the Fund under their management, given in, and ordered to lie on the table till to-morrow: And upon a motion, the thanks of the houſe were given from the chair to Sir Henry Moncrieff-Wellwood, for his great tenderneſs, fidelity, attention and prudence, in the management of the Fund.

The cauſe of Mr Henderſon of Dryſdale to be heard to-morrow, if there is time.

The Overtures from the Synods of Fife, and of Angus and Mearns, reſpecting the Widows Fund; and a Petition for the Preſbytery of Garioch, relative to the ſame ſubject, read. The Aſſembly agreed to hear Sir Henry Moncrieff, Collector of the Widows Fund, upon the Overtures and Petition: And then, after reaſoning, the Aſſembly did unanimouſly diſmiſs the ſame.

A Reference by the Preſbytery of Dundee relative to Elders ſubſcribing the Confeſſion of Faith; and a Repreſentation by the Kirk-ſeſſion of Dundee, in vindication of their conduct, heard: The General Aſſembly find, That all the Elders of this Church are required, by the laws of the Church, to ſubſcribe the Confeſſion of Faith approved by the General Aſſembly of this Church, ratified by various Acts of Parliament, and by the Treaty of Union; that every perſon, who, after being ordained an Elder, refuſes, when judicially called to ſubſcribe the Confeſſion of Faith, in preſence of the proper court, is diſqualified, by that refuſal, from taking any part in the government of this Church; that the Miniſter of Dundee, who was appointed by the Kirk-ſeſſion of Dundee to perform, on the 9th of September laſt, the office of ordaining the Elders, for whom an edict had been ſerved, acted moſt unwarrantably and unconſtitutionally, in preſuming to put to theſe perſons, before their Ordination, queſtions different from thoſe which are implied in the formula 1694, and by no means adequate to the ſpirit of that formula: Ordain the Preſbytery of Dundee, at their next Ordinary Meeting, to ſummon this Miniſter to anſwer for his conduct reſpecting the election and ordination of thoſe Elders; to report the reſult of their inveſtigation to the next General Aſſembly; and to ſummon the ſaid Miniſter to appear at the bar of next Aſſembly: Find, that the Kirk-ſeſſion of Dundee acted unwarrantably and unconſtitutionally in admitting ſeveral of the perſons ordained to the

office

office of Elderſhip on the 9th of September, to ſubſcribe the Confeſſion of Faith, with a reſervation, and in declaring, by their minute inſerted in the ſubſcription-book, on the 8th of May, that the ſubſcriptions, with the reſervation, were adhibited with the unanimous conſent of the Kirk-ſeſſion, and that they did not think they had done any thing unconſtitutional: Ordain the Preſbytery, at their next ordinary meeting, to ſummon Mr David Davidſon, Moderator of the Kirk-ſeſſion, who ſubſcribed that minute in their name, to anſwer for his conduct in ſo doing; to report the reſult of their inveſtigation to the next General Aſſembly; to keep the ſaid ſubſcription-book in ſafe preſervation, and to ſend it up to next Aſſembly, along with their Report; and to ſummon Mr Davidſon to appear at the bar of next Aſſembly: Approve of the conduct of the Preſbytery of Dundee, in referring this important matter to the General Aſſembly: Remit to the Preſbytery, at their next ordinary meeting, to ſummon all the Elders ordained on the 9th of September, who have not already ſubſcribed the Confeſſion of Faith, *ſimpliciter*, to appear before them at their next meeting; leave it to the Preſbytery to take ſuch ſteps as to them may appear proper, for preſerving that regard to the Standards of the Church, and that complete ſubordination of inferior Judicatories to their ſuperiors, which are eſſential to the character of Preſbyterian Government: And the General Aſſembly ſpecially inſtruct the ſaid Preſbytery to inquire of the perſons ſummoned, as above mentioned, whether they are willing to ſubſcribe the Confeſſion of Faith, *ſimpliciter*, in preſence of the Preſbytery, to judge from their anſwers, and from the temper of mind, which they diſcover, whether they ſhould be admitted ſo to ſubſcribe; and ordain the Preſbytery to iſſue their orders to the Kirk-ſeſſion (which the Kirk-ſeſſion are ordained peremptorily to obey) to ſtrike off from their roll every one of the above named perſons, who does not produce to them a certificate from the Preſbytery-clerk that he has ſubſcribed accordingly.

Agreed to take up the caſe of the Chapel of Eaſe at Anderſton firſt to-morrow.

The Committee for Overtures appointed to meet.

Adjournment.

Saturday, June 1. 1799. *Seſſ.* 9.

Sederunt.

Upon Report of the Committee appointed to claſs Returns to Overtures, the Aſſembly ordered theſe Overtures to be retranſmitted, viz. Overture reſpecting the attendance of Students on the Divinity Hall; Overture reſpecting the Courſe of Univerſity Education, &c. and Overture reſpecting the Licenſing of Probationers. See Printed Acts, No. VI. No. VII. No. VIII.

Act approving of the account of Mr William Robertſon, Advocate, Procurator for the Church, and exonering and diſcharging

ging him and his Cautioners of the Sum of L. 428 : 2 : 10 4/12 Sterling, diſburſed by him, and appointing, that he give credit in his next account for the ſum of L. 117 : 15 : 3 2/12 Sterling, being the balance due by him.

Act approving of the account of Mr William Murray, Agent for the Church, and exonering and diſcharging him of the ſum of L. 94 : 19 : 4 Sterling, diſburſed by him; and appointing that he take credit in his next account for the ſum of L. 1, 4 s. 4 d. being the balance due to him.

Act approving of the Account of Mr James Dickſon, printer for the Church, and ordering payment of the ſum of L. 10, 5 s. 4 d. Sterling, being the amount thereof.

Act approving of the account of Stationary Articles, furniſhed to the Clerks by Mr Elphinſton Balfour, and ordering payment of the ſum of L. 16 : 2 : 7, being the amount thereof.

A petition for the Preſbytery of Garioch, read. The Aſſembly remitted the Proceſs therein mentioned to the Procurator and Agent for the Church, to be carried on at the public Expence.

The Report of the Viſitors of the Commiſſion Record called for; the Commiſſioners conduct approved of; thanks given to the Moderator of the Commiſſion, and their book ordered to be atteſted.

The Report of the Committee for naming Members of the Commiſſion of this Aſſembly, and preparing inſtructions to them, given in, and approved. The Aſſembly added thereto Dr James Finlayſon, one of the Miniſters of Edinburgh, in place of the Moderator; and alſo from the Burgh of Renfrew, Mr John Connell, Advocate, whoſe commiſſion had been rejected by this Aſſembly, on account of informality.

See Printed Acts, No. IX.

The Report of the Viſitors of the Royal Bounty Record given in, and read. The conduct of the Managers approved of, and their book ordered to be atteſted.

No. X. A Committee named for managing the Royal Bounty this year, with a commiſſion and inſtructions to them.

Thoſe appointed to reviſe the Synod book of Lothian and Tweeddale, gave in ſome Remarks, which the Aſſembly ordained to be tranſmitted to the clerk of Synod, to be laid before their next meeting; and, in the mean time, ordered their book to be atteſted.

The Synod book of Glenelg alſo ordered to be atteſted.

The Report of the Truſtees of the Fund eſtabliſhed by Act of Parliament, for a Proviſion to Miniſters Widows, &c. again called for, and ordered to be recorded in the ſeparate regiſter kept for that purpoſe.

The Committee on the Enzie Fund renewed, with the former powers.

A Report by the Preſbytery of Glaſgow, reſpecting a Chapel of Eaſe at Anderſton, heard: The General Aſſembly, in regard the ſaid Report is not ſtrictly conformable to the act

1798, reſpecting the Erection of Chapels of Eaſe; remitted this cauſe to the ſaid Preſbytery, in order to have the fact aſcertained, whether the Petitioners might be accommodated in the new Pariſh Church, now building within the Barony Pariſh; and upon its being aſcertained to the ſatisfaction of the Preſbytery, that they cannot be ſo accommodated, the Preſbytery are authoriſed to grant ſuch a conſtitution as the Aſſembly ſhall agree upon on Monday next, to which day the farther conſideration of this matter was delayed.

The Report of the Committee on the cauſe of Penpont, delayed till Monday.

On a motion, the Committee of Bills appointed to meet.

Adjournment.

Monday, June 3. 1799. *Seſſ. ult.*

Sederunt.

Report of the Committee of Bills called for, given in, and read.

A Petition for Mr John Scott, Miniſter of Avendale, read. The Aſſembly unanimouſly remit to the Procurator and Agent for the Church, to carry on the Proceſs therein mentioned at the Public Expence.

Sir John Sinclair of Ulbſter, Baronet, appeared in his place, and preſented at the table, for the uſe of the Aſſembly, a complete ſet of the printed Statiſtical Account of the ſeveral Pariſhes of Scotland, handſomely bound in twenty-one volumes octavo, which work had been compoſed at his own requeſt, and under his inſpection, chiefly by the ſeveral Miniſters of this Church. Upon a motion made, the Moderator, in the Aſſembly's name, returned to Sir John Sinclair the Aſſembly's warmeſt thanks, for the many inſtances of his polite attention to the Miniſters of this Church; for his zeal in ſetting on foot, and his unwearied perſeverance in bringing to an accompliſhment, this great work of the Statiſtical Account of Scotland: And the Aſſembly gratefully accepted of the Honourable Baronet's handſome Donation, of a complete Set of the ſaid moſt uſeful and meritorious work. And upon another motion made, it was unanimouſly agreed, That the Book ſhould be depoſited with the Records and Papers of this Church, under the care of the Clerks of Aſſembly. And the General Aſſembly, ſenſible of the importance and utility of this Work, and being of opinion, that a copy of the whole Book ſhould be purchaſed by every Pariſh within the Kingdom, renewed the recommendation of laſt Aſſembly to the Members of this Aſſembly, and to all the Miniſters of this Church, to conſult their different Pariſhes with regard to the moſt prudent and effectual means of obtaining this object.

The Report of the Committee on the Cauſe againſt Mr Niviſon, Miniſter of Penpont, called for, given in, and read, and unanimouſly approved of: Therefore, the Aſſembly agreeable thereto, found, That the firſt article of the Libel is not relevant:

vant: Found, That the ſixth article of the Libel is relevant: And with reſpect to the ſecond, third, fourth, and fifth articles of the Libel, found, That they are not relevant, in reſpect that they do not directly charge the Pannel with being Guilty of the Crime of Fornication, founded upon in the major propoſition of the Libel, but only ſtate facts and circumſtances, from which it may be preſumed or inferred, that the Pannel was Guilty of ſaid Crime, at the time and place libelled; and, therefore, remitted to the Preſbytery, with power to amend their Libel as to theſe articles, if they ſhall ſee cauſe, and to proceed according to the rules of the Church: And found, That, as the major propoſition of the Libel founds upon certain crimes, which when committed by a Miniſter or Preacher of the Goſpel, ſubject ſuch Miniſter or Preacher to Depoſition, the Libellers cannot charge the Pannel with any crime or offence, ſaid to have been committed prior to his licenſe as a Probationer of this Church: And farther found, That when any Criminal Act is ſpecially charged, it is neceſſary to mention the time within which ſuch Criminal Act is ſaid to have been committed, and that ſuch time ſhall in no caſe exceed the period of one year.

The Aſſembly reſumed the conſideration of the Chapel of Eaſe at Anderſton, and unanimouſly adopted certain regulations for the ſaid Chapel, on the condition mentioned in the Aſſembly's Minute on this ſubject on Saturday laſt: And in caſe of any Reference, Complaint or Appeal upon this ſubject, the Aſſembly authoriſed their Commiſſion in Auguſt, or any ſubſequent Commiſſion, to receive and judge thereon, according to the rules of the Church.

The draught of a Paſtoral Admonition was given in by the Committee on the Overtures, reſpecting Vagrant Teachers and Sunday Schools, which was read, unanimouſly approved of, and adopted by the Aſſembly; and upon a motion made, the General Aſſembly ordained, That this Admonition ſhall be read by all the Miniſters of this Church, and of the Chapels of Eaſe therewith connected, from their reſpective Pulpits, upon the firſt Lord's day after receiving printed copies of the ſame; and for that purpoſe, the Aſſembly direct their Clerks to cauſe 4000 copies thereof to be forthwith printed, and that two copies be tranſmitted without delay to each Miniſter of this Church, to each Miniſter of any Chapel of Eaſe connected therewith, to the Sheriff-depute of every County, and to the Chief Magiſtrate of every Royal Burgh: And the Aſſembly appointed a Committee for ſuperintending the tranſmiſſion of copies of the ſaid Admonition to all concerned: And the Aſſembly inſtruct their Commiſſion in Auguſt, or any ſubſequent Commiſſion, to pay particular attention to the progreſs of Miſſionary and Itinerant Preachers, and to take ſuch ſteps as ſhall appear neceſſary to guard the Church from any dangers with which ſhe may be threatened from that Quarter.

See Printed Acts, No. XI.

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The Committee alſo, in terms of their appointment, gave in their Report reſpecting Vagrant Teachers and Sunday Schools, which was read, and unanimouſly approved of; and the Aſſembly ordained 1500 copies thereof to be printed, and a copy tranſmitted to the Moderator of every Preſbytery of this Church, to be laid before their reſpective Preſbyteries, and alſo a copy to be ſent to every Miniſter of this Church. See Printed Acts, No. XII.

The ſaid Committee further gave in their Report on the Petition of the Parochial Schoolmaſters, which was read, and approved of by the Aſſembly; and agreeable thereto, the Aſſembly feel themſelves called upon, as the Conſtitutional Superintendants of all Schoolmaſters and Teachers of Youth within the bounds of the Church, to declare, That they conſider what is alleged in that Petition as founded in truth; that the Parochial Schoolmaſters are, by the nature of their office, entruſted, in a conſiderable degree, with the important charge of inſtilling into the minds of the riſing Generation, the principles of Religion and Morality; and if they are faithful in the execution of that charge, are well intitled to encouragement: That they are a moſt uſeful body of men, whoſe exertions have contributed very much to the improvement and the ſucceſs of the People of Scotland: That in many Pariſhes their appointments are ſo ſmall as ſcarcely to equal the gains of a day-labourer: That it would be extremely deſirable, if means could be deviſed for holding forth to men of ſound principles and of good capacity, ſufficient encouragement to undertake the office of Parochial Schoolmaſters, eſpecially in the preſent times, when many are endeavouring, by various means, to inſtil into the minds of the riſing Generation, principles not only inimical to Religion, to Morality and Virtue, but ſubverſive of all order in Society, and deſtructive of our happy Conſtitution in Church and State: That the General Aſſembly find it without their ſphere to give any direction to the Petitioners as to the particular method of accompliſhing their object: That they truſt the Petitioners will continue by a diligent and unwearied attention to the duties of their office, to recommend themſelves to the countenance and protection of the Landed Intereſt of Scotland.

The Committee on Orkney Grievances renewed, with the inſtructions given to them by Aſſembly 1797; and Mr Thomas Gordon, writer to the Signet, was added to the Committee, and appointed Convener thereof.

Liſt of Probationers produced, their names read out, and ordered to be Recorded.

The Aſſembly referred the Cauſe of Mr Henderſon at Dryſdale to the Commiſſion to meet to-morrow morning at ten o'clock, and authoriſe and give full powers to the Commiſſion to decide finally therein. And

All other Cauſes not decided by the Aſſembly are referred to the Commiſſion.

A Committee named to reviſe the Minutes of the Aſſembly's proceedings at this and all other diets thereof, and to pitch upon ſuch of the Acts of the Aſſembly as are to be ſtanding rules, in order to their being printed.

The minutes of this day's Sederunt were read; the minutes of former Sederunts having been read at the diets ſubſequent thereto.

The Moderator's ſpeech to the Aſſembly, and to his Grace the Commiſſioner.

The Lord High Commiſſioner's ſpeech to the Aſſembly.

See Printed Acts, No. XIII. Act appointing next diet of Aſſembly.

The Aſſembly concluded with Prayer, Singing of Pſalms, and pronouncing the Bleſſing.

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